DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 429 685 PS 027 441

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| AUTHOR | Abramson, Shareen; Huggins, Joyce M. |
| TITLE | The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition: A Unique Early Childhood Education Professional Development Program. Final Evaluation Report (September 15 to December 15, 1998). |
| INSTITUTION | California State Univ., Fresno. Early Education Center. |
| PUB DATE | 1999-02-25 |
| NOTE | 119p.; Contains many pages of color photographs that may not reproduce well. |
| PUB TYPE | Reports - Evaluative (142) |
| EDRS PRICE | MF01/PC05 Plus Postage. |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Continuing Education; Early Childhood Education; *Faculty Development; *Preschool Teachers; Program Evaluation; Teaching Methods |
| IDENTIFIERS | Project Approach (Katz and Chard); *Reggio Emilia Approach |

ABSTRACT

The "Exhibition of the Hundred Languages of Children" (HLC) was organized in the early 1980s by the early childhood schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy to promote the study of their educational methods and to reveal the potential of young children for learning and creative expression. This report details an evaluation of the exhibition and continuing education program held during the exhibition in 1998 at California State University in Fresno, California, "Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond: An Educational Institute." The institute consisted of four weekend courses taught by leading authorities in early childhood education. Attendees were also able to observe in the Huggins Center, a model training, demonstration, and research center in early childhood education using an exemplary curriculum influenced by the study of the Reggio Approach. The evaluation findings indicated that the HLC exhibition and the program generated an intense and a positive public response throughout the state. Feedback on the exhibit, institute, and tours was exceptionally positive and enthusiastic. The report notes that the program was successful because it provided early childhood education (ECE) training aligned to the mission and goals for ECE in the county offices of education, school districts, and other early childhood education agencies and organizations. The resulting collaboration provided needed financial resources, assisted in publicity efforts, encouraged greater participation of those interested in ECE, and led to greater public awareness of the importance and benefits of ECE. Included in the report are numerous photographs from the exhibit and institute, attendee information, and media information related to the event. (KB)

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# The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition

Joyce M. Huggins, Early Education Center
California State University, Fresno
September 15 to December 15, 1998

ED 429 685

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## Final Report

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# THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION: A UNIQUE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## Final Report

Shareen Abramson, Professor and Director
Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center

During the Fall semester, September, 15 - December 15, 1998, the "Hundred Languages of Children" (HLC) exhibition from the highly rated schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy was on display in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center (Huggins Center), California State University, Fresno. The exhibition was viewed by a total of 4827 visitors including 299 administrators, 1226 teachers, 2246 students and 1056 others. More than 200 different program/school/agency affiliations were identified. Guided tours were given to 88 different groups with the assistance of 18 trained docents.

The continuing education program during the exhibition, "Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond: An Educational Institute," was designed to provide "cutting edge" training in ECE that would address the needs of both students and professionals at various stages of professional growth on the ECE career ladder. The institute consisted of four weekend courses taught by leading authorities in ECE including Drs. Carolyn Edwards, Lilian Katz and George Forman. A lovely Friday evening reception was held for each course in the children's garden of the Huggins Center.

In addition, those attending the exhibition were be able to observe in the Huggins Center, a model training, demonstration and research center in early childhood education that serves mainly low-income student parents, providing services to 180 infant-toddler, preschool, school-age children and fully including children with special needs. The center has a start-of-the-art facility and an exemplary curriculum influenced by the study of the Reggio Approach. The center has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including a recent gift from the Fansler Foundation for its innovative preschool program. Viewing the center's classrooms illustrated how ideas from Reggio can transform ECE practices in an American setting, providing a starting point for newcomers to this approach.

The basic exhibition was underwritten by the Child Development Training Consortium. Primary sponsors for the educational programming included the Bonner Family Foundation, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association - Central Valley Region; and State Center Consortium. Other contributors included the School of Education and Human Development (SOEHD); Division of Extended Education (DEE); ECE professional organizations and agencies; and local businesses. In total, more than $100,000 in funding was obtained for the HLC exhibition and programs--training, exhibition, institute, presenters, tours and educational materials.

The HLC exhibition and program generated an intense and positive response from the public not only in the Central California region but throughout the state. The exhibit and institute were covered by several local newspapers, four television stations and campus media. Many special events such as a recognition dinner, university and school meetings, professional group meetings, etc. featured the HLC exhibition. The feedback on the exhibit, institute and tours has been exceptionally positive and enthusiastic. A follow-up conference is already in the planning stages.

By supporting the HLC exhibition, the university, Academic Affairs, SOEHD and DEE evidenced a deep commitment to promoting quality early childhood education. The academic leadership given by faculty and administration ensured that the program met the highest standards for excellence.

The program was successful because it provided ECE training aligned to the mission and goals for ECE of the county offices of education, school districts and other ECE agencies and organizations. The collaboration that developed across a wide spectrum of schools, institutions, foundations, agencies, organizations and businesses provided needed financial resources, assisted in publicity efforts, encouraged greater participation of those interested in ECE and led to greater public awareness of the importance and benefits of ECE.

# THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION

## A UNIQUE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Dr. Shareen Abramson, Professor and Director
Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center
School of Education and Human Development

February 25, 1999

Early childhood education (ECE) is a top priority in recent educational recommendations and reforms proposed for the local, state and national levels. Research findings strongly suggest that later positive academic outcomes for children are directly related to the quality of early childhood programs and ECE teacher training. New understanding of brain development also confirms the importance of rich and varied early experiences as the key to reaching full human potential. For children who are at high risk due to poverty or other life circumstances, ECE can afford the critical difference. While traditionally defined as the program for kindergarten through third grade, ECE today also includes preschool, child development, child care, infant-toddler programs, Head Start, Healthy Start and family child care. Increasing the pool of trained early childhood professionals and enhancing their qualifications is essential to creating high quality ECE programs and expanding the availability of ECE services. Meeting the training and professional development needs of individuals representing diverse programs and having varying levels of educational background and experience requires innovative strategies and strong collaborative efforts across institutions, agencies and organizations.

## Reggio Emilia Approach

The publicly supported ECE programs of Reggio Emilia, Italy for infants, toddlers, preschool and kindergarten children and including children with disabilities have generated excitement among early childhood educators in the U.S. and throughout the rest of the world. In 1991, Newsweek magazine ran a cover story that rated ECE in Reggio Emilia as the best in the world. American visitors to Reggio Emilia schools marvel at the exceptional quality of the programs; dedication, sensitivity and intelligence of the teachers and staff; depth and sophistication of project work; and remarkable visual documentation of the learning process. Presentations concerning these Italian schools at professional conferences are typically "standing room only" events indicating the strong interest and need for more training in this area of ECE.

## The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition

The "Exhibition of the Hundred Languages of Children" (HLC exhibition) was organized in the early 1980's by the schools in Reggio Emilia to promote the study of their educational methods as well as to reveal the enormous potential of young children for learning and creative expression. The internationally acclaimed, traveling HLC exhibition consists of more than 200 colorful plexiglas panels, light boxes and showcases of children's work created in a variety of media with detailed descriptions. Sequences of engaging photographs of the children's experiences, transcriptions of their dialogues, and reflections by their educators record the learning process. Insight is also provided as to the philosophy that Loris Malaguzzi, the founder and for many years director of these schools, and his teachers developed over 30 years to guide their work with children. The HLC exhibition is organized around thematic investigations, or proposals, many of which have been initiated by the children. Examples include "Shadowiness," "Color in Our Hands," "Harvesting Grapes with the Farmers" and "Rain in the City." The exhibition celebrates the potential of young children that can be realized when teachers and families work as partners to provide a stimulating, intellectually challenging program.

During the Fall semester, September, 15 - December 15, 1998, the HLC exhibition was on display in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center (Huggins Center), California State University, Fresno. The Huggins Center is part of the School of Education and Human Development and is directed by an Shareen Abramson, Professor of Early Childhood Education, who was also the coordinator of the exhibition in Fresno and the professional development programs associated with it.

Two complementary "Visitors' Guides," a standard edition and an expanded edition written by George Forman and produced by the Huggins Center for the Fresno showing of the exhibition, were also made to all participants. These Visitor's Guides provide explanations and analyses of each exhibit theme in order that ECE teachers can become more familiar with the educational approach that is utilized.

## Professional Development Objectives

The objectives of the HLC exhibition and HLC professional development programs were as follows:

- Meet the training needs and improve the skill level of ECE professionals and the quality of ECE programs serving diverse children by sponsoring an innovative and varied professional growth and development program in connection with the HLC exhibition.
- Identify and engage nationally and internationally recognized authorities on ECE and the Reggio Emilia Approach for a weekend educational institute held throughout the HLC exhibition.
- Provide institute seminars on different aspects of ECE that demonstrate how the application of principles, research and practices based on the Reggio Emilia Approach can enhance the intellectual, language and literacy and creative development of young children.
- Offer for observation of a quality early education and care program for diverse, low-income children at the Huggins Center that has a curriculum that fosters children's physical, social, emotional, creative and cognitive development based on the Reggio Emilia Approach as well as other developmentally appropriate practices.
- Create formal and informal opportunities for interaction, communication and collaboration among ECE programs throughout the state through a shared focus on the study of the Reggio Emilia Approach.
- Increase the number of ECE students and professionals in the continuing education program as well as recruit students for regular enrollment in ECE credential programs at the university.
- Evaluate institute seminars to improve planning for future extended education offerings.

## Program Planning

The HLC exhibition and programming involved many planning challenges as it necessitated development of strong collaborative working relationships among different areas of the university, coordination with multiple professional organizations, agencies and businesses. From the time our name was placed on the HLC exhibition waiting list in the Fall of 1993, the coming of the exhibition and the work it would entail was never far from our minds. Planning for the program began in earnest in Summer, 1997 and included monthly meetings with staff, ECE leaders and others on program development, budget, grant applications, facilities, media relations and contingency planning. Through a grant from the Bonner Family Foundation, a local foundation dedicated to the visual arts, four teachers from the Huggins Center participated in a study delegation to Reggio Emilia in Spring, 1998 in order to learn more about the Reggio Emilia Approach and prepare for the HLC exhibition. By the arrival of the HLC exhibition, seven teachers and administrators from the Huggins Center had been to Reggio Emilia and all the teachers and many of the teacher associates and assistants had received training through Mills College seminars and 1998 Summer Institute, attended the St. Louis Institute and/or other programs and conference sessions on the Reggio Emilia Approach.

## Program Funding

Of critical importance to the HLC exhibition was the identification of a funding source having a shared interest in providing ECE training.

Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC) has as its mission to increase the number and qualifications of ECE teachers and child care providers in California. Because the Huggins Center is funded by the State Department of Education, we were encouraged to approach this agency for funding. After discussion and a site visit, it was agreed that the basic exhibition cost would be underwritten by CDTC with Federal Block Grant, Child Care and Development Quality Improvement Funds from the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. CDTC also allowed reimbursement for the cost of institute seminars to individuals currently working in child care programs who needed course work to apply for or renew their California Children's Center permit.

Primary sponsors for the exhibit's related educational programming included the Bonner Family Foundation, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association - Central Valley Region representing every county office of education in the region (Fresno County Office of

Education - Dr. Peter Mehas, Superintendent.; Kings County Office of Education - Mr. Gene Billingsley; Superintendent Madera County Office of Education - Dr. Sally Frazier, Superintendent.; Mariposa County Unified School District - Dr. William Pettus, Superintendent; Merced County Office of Education - Mr. Ronald Tiffee, Superintendent; Tulare County Office of Education - Mr. Jim Vidak, Superintendent and Chair); State Center Consortium (a coalition of secondary and post-secondary institutions in the region). Major contributions were provided by the School of Education and Human Development and Extended Education Division at CSU, Fresno. Other contributors included ECE professional organizations and agencies as well as local businesses: Central California Association for the Education of Young Children; Children's Services Network; Fresno Area Child Development Consortium; Fresno County EOC - Head Start; Fresno County Association for the Education of Young Children; Inland Star Distribution Centers, Inc.; Saint Agnes Hospital; and Supportive Services of Fresno County. In total, more than $100,000 of funding was obtained for all the HLC professional development programs--study program, exhibition, guided tours and institute.

Not long after the arrival of the exhibit, the center received notification of a significant grant from the Fansler Foundation in Fresno to support the Preschool in the Huggins Center in its endeavors to develop a program influenced by the Reggio Emilia Approach.

## Exhibition Opening

The opening celebration on Friday, September 18, was sponsored by Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean of the School of Education and Human Development. Dr. Brad Mitchell, Professor of Education, the Ohio State University, gave the presentation,"Bringing Reggio Home: Polices, Practices and Educational Leadership," at a special luncheon to celebrate the HLC exhibition. The luncheon and presentation were attended by more than 50 faculty members from the School of Education and Human Development and leaders from school districts in our region. That evening, a reception attended by more than 150 educators continued the festivities and ushered in the institute course taught by Dr. Carolyn Edwards.

## HLC Participants

The variety of professional development opportunities in connection with the exhibition attracted participants with varied backgrounds and careers including postsecondary students from both two-year and four-year institutions, early childhood educators representing numerous schools, colleges and universities and other types of ECE programs as well as parents of young children. Based on evaluation data, the exhibition was viewed by a total of 4827 visitors identified as follows: 299 administrators, 1226 teachers, 2246 students and 1056 others. More than 200 different program/school/agency affiliations were identified for attendees. While the vast majority were from California, visitors also came from Arizona, Idaho, Washington, Hawaii, Denmark and Australia. The attached chart gives more detailed information.

It should be noted that data collection relied on completion of a written evaluation form by visitors, course registration, tour reservations and/or tally by student assistants when available. Some visitors to the exhibit were missed in the count and therefore the summary data should be regarded as a conservative estimate.

## Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond: An Educational Institute

The HLC exhibition provided a context for the extended education program, "Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond: An Educational Institute." This innovative professional development program in ECE was jointly sponsored by the Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno and the Huggins Center.

Because some ECE teachers and child care providers who are already credentialed may not need additional units, the institute was offered as a non-credit program with a credit option in order to keep cost to participants as low as possible. For those not taking seminars for credit, a professional growth hours certificate was given.

The institute was designed to provide "cutting edge" training in ECE that would address the needs of both students and professionals at various stages of professional growth on the ECE career ladder. The institute was linked closely with the HLC exhibition and the Huggins Center. The Reggio

Emilia Institute consisted of four weekend seminars, three that were taught by guest instructors who are some of the leading authorities in ECE today. Three seminars included a lovely Friday evening reception for the guest instructor held in the children's garden of the Huggins Center, an example of project curriculum. All institute participants, university representatives and program sponsors were invited.

The Reggio Institute consisted of four seminars. The seminars and instructors are described below:

### A Context for the Exhibition Experience

This program prior to the official opening of the exhibition introduces principles and practices from the schools of Reggio Emilia. This program is required for those wishing to volunteer as docents for the exhibition. For this course only, you may call to reserve a seat or register in class.

**Instructor:** Shareen Abramson, Ph.D., is a Professor of Early Childhood Education and Director of the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center, School of Education and Human Development at California State University, Fresno. The Huggins Center is a training, demonstration and research center in early childhood education.

### Children, teachers, and parents: relations for learning and well-being

An introduction the Reggio Emilia approach with special focus on the system of family-centered education and care including the youngest children under age three. Malaguzzi's philosophy of "education as relationship" and its implications for organization, teacher development, inclusiveness, flexible curriculum, parent partnerships and ways the Reggio experience can speak to us in our American contexts is explored.

**Instructor:** Carolyn Pope Edwards, Ed.D., Professor of Psychology and Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She has studied Italian programs that provide family-centered early childhood education and care since 1983, and is one of the editors of The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education. Her publications examine family life, child development, and early childhood education around the world.

### Engaging children's minds: the project approach

Projects are in depth investigations of real phenomena and events worth learning about. The key feature of a project is that it is a research effort deliberately focused on finding answers to questions about a topic posed either by children or the teachers. Participants are introduced to the project approach through presentation of principles of development and learning and by investigating their own projects.

**Instructor:** Lilian Katz is a Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and Director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She is Past President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, world renowned lecturer, author of over 100 publications, and recipient of two Fulbright Awards and many of honors. In addition to her other notable books, Dr. Katz is the co-author of *Engaging Children's Minds.*

## The Symbolic Languages of Children

Encouraging children to express ideas in different media and materials is a powerful tool for learning and reflection. The "hundred languages" is the term used by Reggio educators to convey how children can make visible their evolving understanding through drawings, clay, wire, etc. The use of multiple languages in projects, section of materials based on affordances, how to ask questions that provoke thinking and the role of the teacher as a partner in the learning process are considered.

**Instructor:** George Forman, Ph.D., is a Professor of Education, University Massachusetts at Amherst. He is an internationally recognized authority on constructivism and the role of creativity in promoting cognitive development and has writing extensively in these areas. He promotes the use of a variety of media as fundamental educational experiences for children. Dr. Forman is co-editor of *The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education.*

Based on extended education data, course enrollment was as follows: Context for the Exhibition (53); Teachers, Children and Parents (68); Engaging Children's Minds (158) and Symbolic Languages (177). Total students for the institute was 444 ( a number of students took the entire series or more than one course). Institute students came from all over the State of California and several came from out-of-state. More than 150 cities and towns were indicated according to the student registration forms. Course evaluations were extremely favorable for all of the courses.

## Guided Tours

Guided tours were provided to educator groups for a small fee. The tour consisted of a two and one-half hour program taught by Dr. Shareen Abramson with the assistance of trained docents who had attended at least the first institute course (although almost all attended the full series) and had studied the text, the "Hundred Languages of Children" and other related articles and materials provided by Dr. Abramson. The total number of docents was 18. Five of the docents had participated in study delegations to Reggio Emilia. In terms of education and employment, one was a university instructor, two were community college instructors, 5 were teachers and 5 associate or assistant teachers at the Huggins Center, one was a student in the ECE program at the university, three were public school ECE teachers and one was a community college ECE student. Each docent did a written analysis of at least three HLC exhibition themes to prepare for tours. At the beginning the tour, docents emphasized that they were not experts on Reggio Emilia, but rather had chosen to be docents in order to learn more about the Reggio Emilia Approach and to learn through sharing the exhibit with others.

Each tour participant received a folder containing the two Visitor's guides, map to the HLC exhibition, articles on the Reggio Emilia Approach and an extensive bibliography. The tour began with a review of these resources and an orientation video, the CNN Spring 1998 news feature on an American teacher's visit to Reggio Emilia and its impact on her teaching. After a discussion and question and answer session, the tour proceeded to the exhibit where the docent provided additional background and explanations on three to four of the exhibit themes as the tour group went through the exhibition. At the conclusion of the exhibition, an evaluation sheet was completed by participants.

The total number of guided tours given was 88. The attached chart indicates the schools, school districts, early childhood programs both public and private, community colleges, universities and professional organizations that received tours. The guided tour groups ranged in size from one to 71 people with the average tour size of approximately 15.

Observation of the Huggins Center

In addition, those attending the exhibition and institute were be able to observe in the Joyce M. Huggins Center, a model early childhood education program, that serves mainly low-income student parents by providing services to 180 infant-toddler, preschool, school-age children. The center has a start-of-the-art facility and an exemplary curriculum influenced by the study of the Reggio Approach. The center provides an ideal setting for observation, training, demonstration and research for university students, other students and educators interested in learning about the best methods for early childhood education. The center has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards for its innovative program. Viewing the classrooms in the Huggins Center illustrated in a concrete way how ideas from Reggio can transform ECE practices in an American setting providing a starting point for newcomers to this approach.

Specific Impact on Individuals, Institutions and Community

The HLC exhibition and program generated an intense and positive response from the public not only in the Central California region but throughout the state and beyond. Quantitative and qualitative data support the relevance and importance of this professional development experience. Many of those attending the HLC exhibition, institute and/or tours asked to be included in the mailing list for future ECE program offerings and to receive information on the SOEHD credential and master's programs. The exhibit and institute was covered by several local newspapers, four television stations and campus media. Many special events such as a recognition dinner, university and school meetings, professional group meetings, etc. featured the HLC exhibition. The feedback on the exhibit, institute and tours has been exceptionally positive and enthusiastic. A follow-up conference is already in the planning stages.

By supporting the HLC exhibition and educational programs, the university, Academic Affairs, School of Education and Human Development and Division of Extended Education evidenced a deep commitment to promoting quality early childhood education for all children. The academic leadership given by faculty and administration for the HLC exhibition and professional development program ensured that the program met the highest standards for excellence.

This professional development program was also successful because it provided ECE training aligned to the mission and goals of the county offices of education and school districts of the region, other ECE agencies, organizations and programs. The collaboration that developed across a wide spectrum of schools, institutions, foundations, agencies, organizations and businesses provided needed financial resources, assisted in publicity efforts, encouraged greater participation of those interested in ECE and led to greater public awareness of the importance and benefits of ECE.

## THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION:

## ATTENDANCE DATA

| AFFILIATION | ADMIN. | TEACHER | STUDENT | OTHER | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alan Hancock College, Nipomo |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| Alameda Unified Sch. District |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| Antelope Valley College Child Dev. Center | 4 | 6 |  |  | 10 |
| Bakersfield Community College* |  | 3 | 53 |  | 56 |
| Bakersfield Community College Ch. Care* | 1 | 14 |  |  | 15 |
| Bearable Child Care, Three Rivers | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Beth Shir Shalom ECE Ctr., Woodland Hills |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Bonner Family Foundation |  |  |  | 2 | 2 |
| Bright Horizons-Culver City |  | 6 |  |  | 6 |
| Bright Horizons-Los Angeles |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| Bright Horizons-Sony CD Ctr. |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Buckeye Sch. Dis., Shingle Springs |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Bureau of Jewish Ed., Los Angeles | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| CSU Cal Poly Ch. Care |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| CSU Bakersfield Ch. Care | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| CSU Fresno******* | 25 | 175 | 1189 | 35 | 1424 |
| CSU Fresno - University Outreach |  |  |  | 15 | 15 |
| CSU Fullerton Ch. Care* | 2 | 6 |  | 1 | 9 |
| CSU-Hayward |  | 2 | 18 |  | 20 |
| CSU Long Beach Ch. Care | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| CSU - Los Angeles Ch. Care | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| CSU Norhtridge Ch. Care | 1 | 1 |  |  | 2 |
| CSU Sacramento |  | 3 |  |  | 3 |
| CSU Sacramento Ch. Care* | 1 | 8 |  |  | 9 |
| CSU San Diego* |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CSU San Francisco |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| CSU San Francisco Ch Care | 1 | 2 |  |  | 3 |
| CSU San Jose Ch. Care | 1 | 4 |  |  | 5 |
| CSU - Sonoma |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| CSU - Sonoma Child Care* | 1 | 4 |  |  | 5 |
| Campell Union Sch. Dist., Half Moon Bay | 1 | 1 |  |  | 2 |
| CAPE, Inc., Livermore area |  | 3 |  |  | 3 |
| Carmel Unified School District* | 1 | 2 |  |  | 3 |
| Caruthers HS |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |
| CDC & Presch, Altadena |  | 3 |  |  | 3 |
| CDI/CDC - Davis* | 3 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 18 |
| CDI/CDC- Elk Grove* |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| CDC/CDI - Lemoore NAS* | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| CDC/CDI - Orange County* |  | 10 |  |  | 10 |
| CDC/CDI -San Jose* | 2 | 65 |  |  | 67 |
| CDC/CDI - Sacramento |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| CDI/CDC - Vacaville |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Cedarcreek, Presch., Canyon Country |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |
| Central Unified |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Central Unified - Central HS |  |  | 2 |  | 2 |
| Central Unified - Liddell |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Central Unified - Roosevelt Elem. |  | 1 |  | 2 | 3 |
| Central Unified - Steinbeck |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Chapman University |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |
| Child Time, Clovis | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Children's Learning Center, Fresno* |  | 5 |  |  | 5 |
| Children's Services Network, Fresno* | 6 |  |  | 14 | 20 |
| Citrus College CDC-Glendora, CA |  | 2 |  | 2 | 4 |

## THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION:

## ATTENDANCE DATA

| AFFILIATION | ADMIN. | TEACHER | STUDENT | OTHER | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clairbourn Sch., San Gabriel | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Clovis Unified School District | 2 | 16 | | | 18 |
| CUSD - Buchannan HS | | | 2 | | 2 |
| CUSD - Clovis HS | | | 3 | | 3 |
| CUSD - Cooper MS | | | 2 | | 2 |
| CUSD - Fancher Creek Elem. | | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| Coalinga Huron School District | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 6 |
| College of San Mateo-Child Dev. Center* | | 2 | 10 | 1 | 13 |
| College of the Canyons* | 2 | 7 | | 4 | 13 |
| College Of the Redwoods | | 1 | | | 1 |
| College of the Sequoias* | 3 | 11 | 23 | 5 | 42 |
| Contra Costa College Head Start | | 4 | | | 4 |
| Community Care Licensing* | 8 | | | | 8 |
| Crowell State Preschool-Turlock* | 6 | 17 | | 5 | 28 |
| College of San Mateo | | 1 | | | 1 |
| DeAnza CDC, Cupertino | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Delmar Nursery, Cardiff | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Denmark* | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Dos Palos HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Dunlap Sch., Miramonte | | 1 | | | 1 |
| The Duck Pond, Oakland | 1 | 4 | | | 5 |
| Early Education Center-Fresno State* | | 14 | 32 | 208 | 254 |
| El Cajon HS, El Cajon | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Eureka City Schools | 1 | 4 | | | 5 |
| Evergreen School, Santa Monica | 1 | 6 | | 1 | 8 |
| Exceptional Parents Unlimited* | | | 13 | | 13 |
| Exeter Union HS | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Fairmont Primary | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Fairmont YWCA SACE, Sanger | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Fansler Family Foundation* | | | | 5 | 5 |
| Firebaugh Schs. | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Foothill College-Childrens Center-San Jose | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Foothill Community College* | 1 | 5 | | | 6 |
| Foothills Sch., Boise, ID | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Four Winds Sch., Ojai | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Freshwater Elem.-Eureka | | 9 | | 2 | 11 |
| Fresno City College**** | 8 | 21 | 180 | 13 | 222 |
| Fresno Montessori* | 4 | 10 | | 1 | 15 |
| Fresno Pacific | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 |
| Fruit Ridge Elementary,Sacramento | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Freno Co. Office of Ed. | 2 | | | | 2 |
| FUSD* | 12 | 10 | | | 22 |
| FUSD - Balderas | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD - Bullard Talent | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| FUSD - Calwa | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD Child Development Centers** | 2 | 36 | | 1 | 39 |
| FUSD - Duncan Polytechnic | | 1 | 8 | | 9 |
| FUSD Del Mar Elem. | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| FUSD - Edison HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| FUSD - Fig Garden | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD - Gifted Talented | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| FUSD - Holland | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD - Lawless | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD - Lane | 1 | | | | 1 |

## THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION:

## ATTENDANCE DATA

| AFFILIATION | ADMIN. | TEACHER | STUDENT | OTHER | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FUSD - McLane HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| FUSD -Mayfair Elem. | 1 | 9 | | | 10 |
| FUSD - Muir | | | | 1 | 1 |
| FUSD Rosevelt PACE, ECE Classes | | 1 | 37 | | 38 |
| FUSD -Slater Elem. | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD - Storey Elem | | 1 | | | 1 |
| FUSD - Sunset Elem | 2 | 1 | | | 3 |
| FUSD -Thomas Elem. | | 2 | | | 2 |
| FUSD-Turner Elem. | | 2 | | | 2 |
| FUSD -Gibson Elem. | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Fullerton College* | | 3 | 68 | | 71 |
| Gallinas Sch., Corte Madera | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Gallmus El. Sch., San Rafael | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Glendale Comm. Coll. | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Goldsmith Seeds Ctr., Gilroy | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Gould Educational Center-Madera | 3 | 13 | | 2 | 18 |
| Granary CDC, Santa Cruz | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Green Valley CDC, Placentia | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Hanford HS | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Hansel & Gretal Daycare* | 2 | 10 | | 4 | 16 |
| Honolulu, Hawaii | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Head Start, Kings Canyon* | 1 | 2 | | 6 | 9 |
| Head Start, Tulare* | | 3 | | 3 | 6 |
| Hill and Dale Center, Santa Monica | 2 | 3 | | | 5 |
| Jewish Day School of Fresno* | 1 | | | 17 | 18 |
| John Muir Elem.-Long Beach* | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 5 |
| Kel-Sum Ch. Care, Sanger | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Kerman Schs. | 2 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 17 |
| Kids World Preschool, Lemoore | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Kings Co. Office of Ed. | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Kings County Headstart* | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Kings River College* | | 1 | 12 | 1 | 14 |
| La Habra CD Ctrs.* | 11 | 46 | | | 57 |
| LA Ch. Care, Presch Progs. | 4 | 12 | | | 16 |
| LA Unified | | 8 | | | 8 |
| Las Positas College, Livermore | | 10 | | | 10 |
| Learning Tree, Fresno | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Lincoln Unified Schools, Stockton*** | 16 | 34 | | 4 | 54 |
| Lindsey Unified School District | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Little Friends Learning Center-Fresno | 2 | 6 | | | 8 |
| Little Lamb Preschool, Reedley | 2 | 3 | | | 5 |
| Lodi HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Long Beach City College | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Long Beach Unified | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Madera Community College* | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Madera Headstart | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Madera Office of Education* | 2 | 25 | | 2 | 29 |
| Madera HS | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Madera Unified Schools | 3 | 5 | | | 8 |
| Madison School District, Phoenix, AZ | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Magnia Child Care, Fresno | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Malibu Preschools* | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Marin Horizon, Mill Valley | | 1 | | | 1 |

## THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION:

## ATTENDANCE DATA

| AFFILIATION | ADMIN. | TEACHER | STUDENT | OTHER | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mattel CD Ctr., El Segundo | | 4 | | | 4 |
| Mendocino College | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Meadow Homes Elem., Concord | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Meadow Lane Elem., Lemoore | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Mendota Day Care Centers* | 2 | 4 | | | 6 |
| Merced Arts Council | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Merced City Schools | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 5 |
| Merced College | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Mills College, Oakland | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 4 |
| Ming Ave CDC, Kern Co. | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Modesto Community College** | 2 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 28 |
| Modesto City Schools | 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 22 |
| Modest Head Start | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Montecito Union, Santa Barbara | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Monterey Peninsula College* | 3 | 15 | | 2 | 20 |
| Mount Whitney HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| My Friends, San Diego | | 1 | | | 1 |
| NCO Headstart, Willits | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Napa Valley College | | 1 | 8 | 1 | 10 |
| Napa Valley College CDC | | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| National Sch. Dist., Chula Vista | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Nihonmachi Little Friends | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Northfork Schools | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Northside Christian Early CD Center | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Northwest Sch,. Fresno | 1 | | | | 1 |
| OIC CD Ctr., East Palo Alto | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Oxnard Community College | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Pacific Oaks College | 2 | 1 | 4 | | 7 |
| Palcare CD Ctr., Burlingame | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Panda's Day Care, Fresno* | 3 | 2 | | | 5 |
| Panda's Day Care, Madera* | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Parkwest Preschool-Fresno* | | 6 | | 4 | 10 |
| Parlier Unified Preschool* | | 10 | | | 10 |
| People's Church Ch. Care, Fresno | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Piaget Discovery Sch. | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Pixie Land Day Care, Madera* | 1 | 4 | | | 5 |
| Rainbow Sch., Stockton | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Reedley College | | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| Reedley College - Madera Center | | 8 | 2 | | 10 |
| Reedley HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Renaissance Day Care* | 1 | 5 | | | 6 |
| Rio Linda Union Sch. District | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ripon HS, Ripon | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Rolling Oaks CDC,Ventura* | | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| Roosevelt Head Start, Selma | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Rosenberg E.C.C., San Fran. Jewish Comm.* | 8 | 11 | | 7 | 26 |
| Sacramento Community College | | 3 | 1 | | 4 |
| Sacramento Unified School District | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Saint Agnes Child Care Center* | 2 | 27 | | | 29 |
| Salida Head Start* | | 6 | | 3 | 9 |
| Salinas Adult School Coop Presch.* | 4 | 7 | | | 11 |
| San Francisco USD - CDC | 2 | 5 | | | 7 |
| San Juan School District, Sacramento* | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Sanger Unified | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Santa Barbara Co. Office of Ed. | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |

## THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION:

## ATTENDANCE DATA

| AFFILIATION | ADMIN. | TEACHER | STUDENT | OTHER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Santa Monica College | | 2 | 11 | | 13 |
| Santa Monica -Malibu School Dist. | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Santa Rosa Junior College, Petaluma | | 4 | | | 4 |
| Sarah Cooper CDC, Danville | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Selma High School | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Sierra High School (Spec. Ed.) | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Sierra Mountain Kids Presch., North Fork | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Solano Community College* | 10 | 22 | | 3 | 35 |
| Southwestern College, San Diego | | 2 | | | 2 |
| St. George Academy-Laguna Hills | | 1 | | | 1 |
| St. Helen's Sch., Sylmar | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Stanislaus Co. Head Start* | 1 | 30 | | 1 | 32 |
| Stanislaus County Office of Ed.* | 5 | 20 | | | 25 |
| State Center, Fresno | | 2 | 18 | | 20 |
| Stephen S.Wise Temple, Los Angeles | 3 | 13 | | | 16 |
| Sutro CDC, Emeryville | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Temple Isaiah Presch., Berkeley | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Tranquility HS | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Tri-Cities Ch Care Ctr., Cupertino | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Tulare County Child Care* | 1 | 15 | | 4 | 20 |
| Tulare County Resource and Referral* | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Tulare County Schs. | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Tule Elk Park Cener, San Francisco | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Turluck School District* | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Turlock Head Start* | | 10 | | | 10 |
| Turlock HS | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Turnipseed Ch. Care/Presch. | 1 | | | | 1 |
| UC Berkeley | 5 | 4 | 1 | | 10 |
| UC Davis | | | 5 | | 5 |
| UC Los Angeles | 1 | | 9 | 5 | 15 |
| UC Los Angeles, Seeds Elem | | 8 | | | 8 |
| Unitarian Church, Fresno* | | | | 8 | 8 |
| Vancouver, WA | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ventura Head Start* | 5 | 18 | | | 23 |
| Ventura Head Start* | 5 | 18 | | | 23 |
| Victoria, Australia | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Waterford Head Start* | 1 | 11 | | | 12 |
| Webster Unified | 1 | 7 | | | 8 |
| West Valley College, San Jose | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Westminster Christian Preschool | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Woodlake Union HS, Woodlake | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Woodville Ch. Care, Porterville | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Wu Yee Lok Yuen Children, San Francisco | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Yuba City-CDC* | 5 | 6 | | 2 | 13 |
| Yuba College* | | 12 | | | 12 |
| Other | 23 | 30 | 479 | 627 | 1159 |
| TOTALS PER CATEGORY | 299 | 1226 | 2246 | 1056 | 4827 |

**Professional Organizations Given Guided Tours (Participants categorized in table)**

CSU Child Care Directors Assoc.*
Fresno Co. Ch. Care Directors*
Fresno Co.Family Child Care Assoc.*
Fresno Area CD Consortium*

Fresno Assoc. for the Ed. of YC*
Phi Delta Kappa, Fresno*
Reading Recovery Regional Meeting*

*** GUIDED TOURS PROVIDED**

**The Hundred Languages of Children**

**Exhibition arrived in Fresno**

**and was installed at the**

**Huggins Center in late August.**

Dr. Shareen Abramson, Professor and Director of the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center.

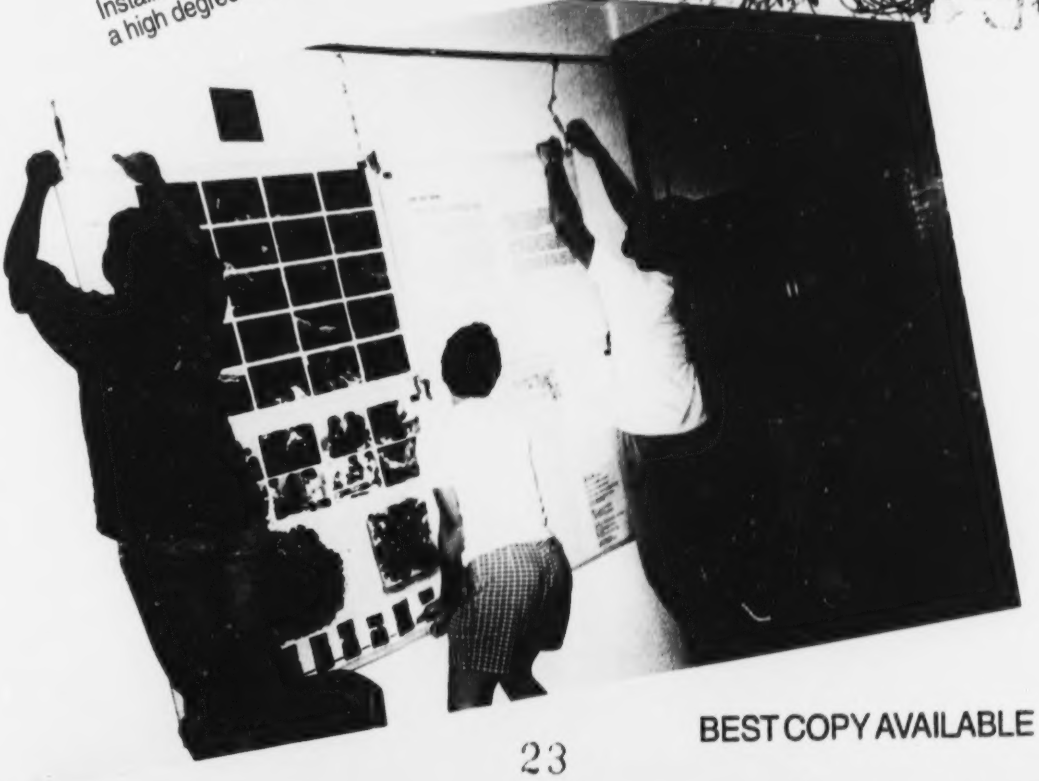
The Reggio Emilia Approach
to Early Childhood Education

The staff of the Huggins Center who made the exhibition in Fresno possible and the children to whom we dedicate ourselves.

WONDERFUL GAMES

The exhibit boxes line the back entry to the center near the garden.

Installing the exhibit requires a high degree of group effort.



The hallways of the center are transformed by the installation of the exhibit.

The title for the Shadow project is on a window, making a shadow on the floor each day.

**A number of celebratory events at the School of Education and Human Development mark the opening of the exhibition and each of the institute programs.**

Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean of the School of Education and Human Development formally opens the exhibit.

Valley leader, Dr. Pete Mehas, Superintendent of Fresno County Office of Education (second from right), attends the luncheon celebrating the opening of the exhibit. With Dr. Mehas are Dean Paul Shaker, Howard Wiley and Lynn Eilefson.

More than 50 faculty, administrators and school district representatives attend the luncheon and opening program.

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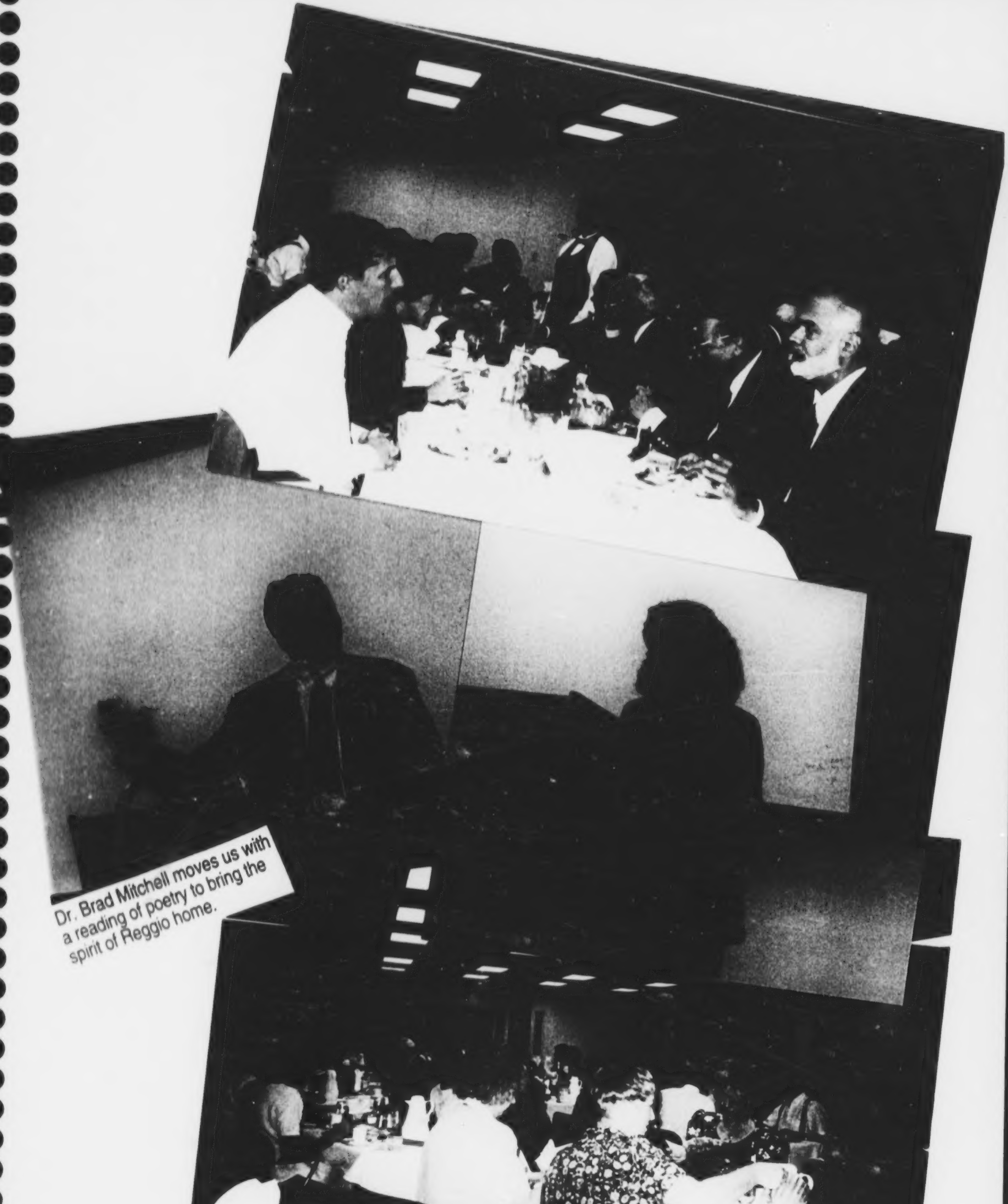

Dr. Brad Mitchell moves us with a reading of poetry to bring the spirit of Reggio home.

Huggins Center parents assist in making the reception a success.

Dr. Brad Mitchell is the opening speaker for the exhibition and challenges each of us to stay true to our beliefs about what makes education real for students.

The first reception to honor the exhibit opening and Carolyn Edwards.

After a long journey, Dr. Carolyn Edwards is welcomed to Fresno by Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean.

Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean with Dr. Lilian Katz at the reception in her honor.

Dr. Shareen Abramson welcomes attendees to one of the three institute receptions held in the Children's Garden of the Huggins Center.

Dr. Lilian Katz with Dr. Joyce Huggins, Emerita faculty and past Coordinator of the ECE Program and Dr. Robert Monke, Associate Dean of the School of Education.

Dr. Jim Marshall, Dr. Wally Alrich, Dean Paul Shaker and Mrs. Alrich.

Dr. Jacques Benninga, Dr. Jody Daughtry and Jeanette Methven.

Teacher Mary Setyono and her husband, Johannes.

Teachers Julie Razavi and Mary Heibert-Hall.

Studio teacher Laura Elliott and who coordinated the installation of the exhibit and preparation of exhibit materials such as the brochure and Visitor Guides. She was also the organizer of reception festivities.

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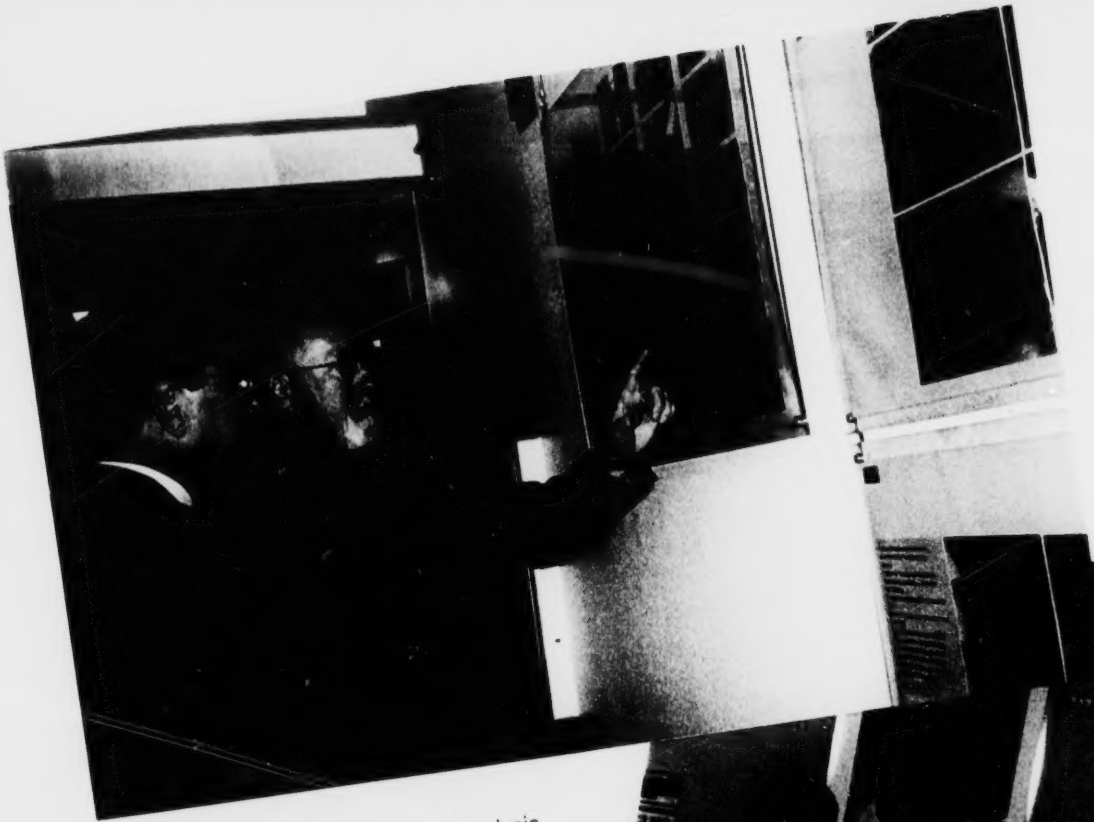
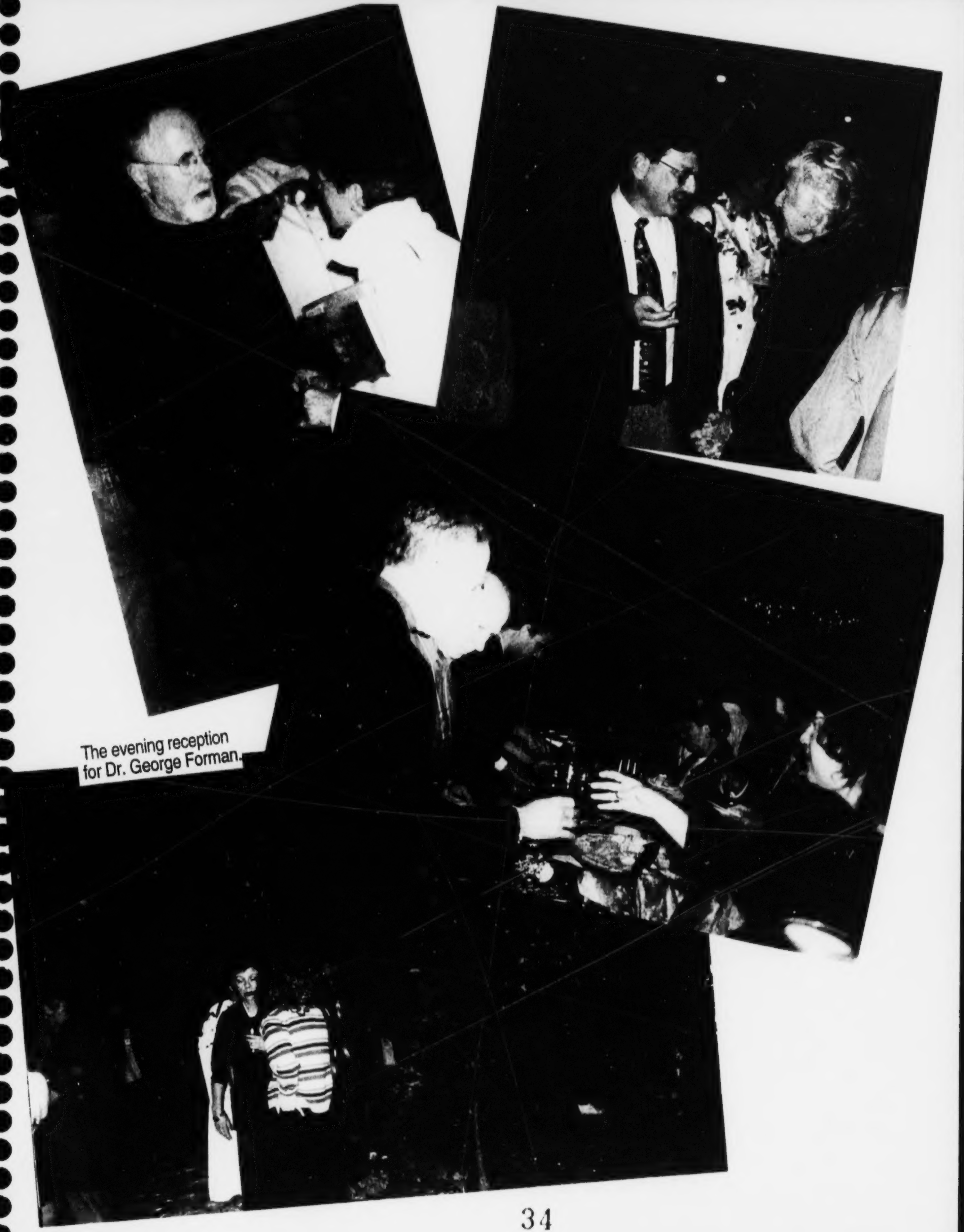
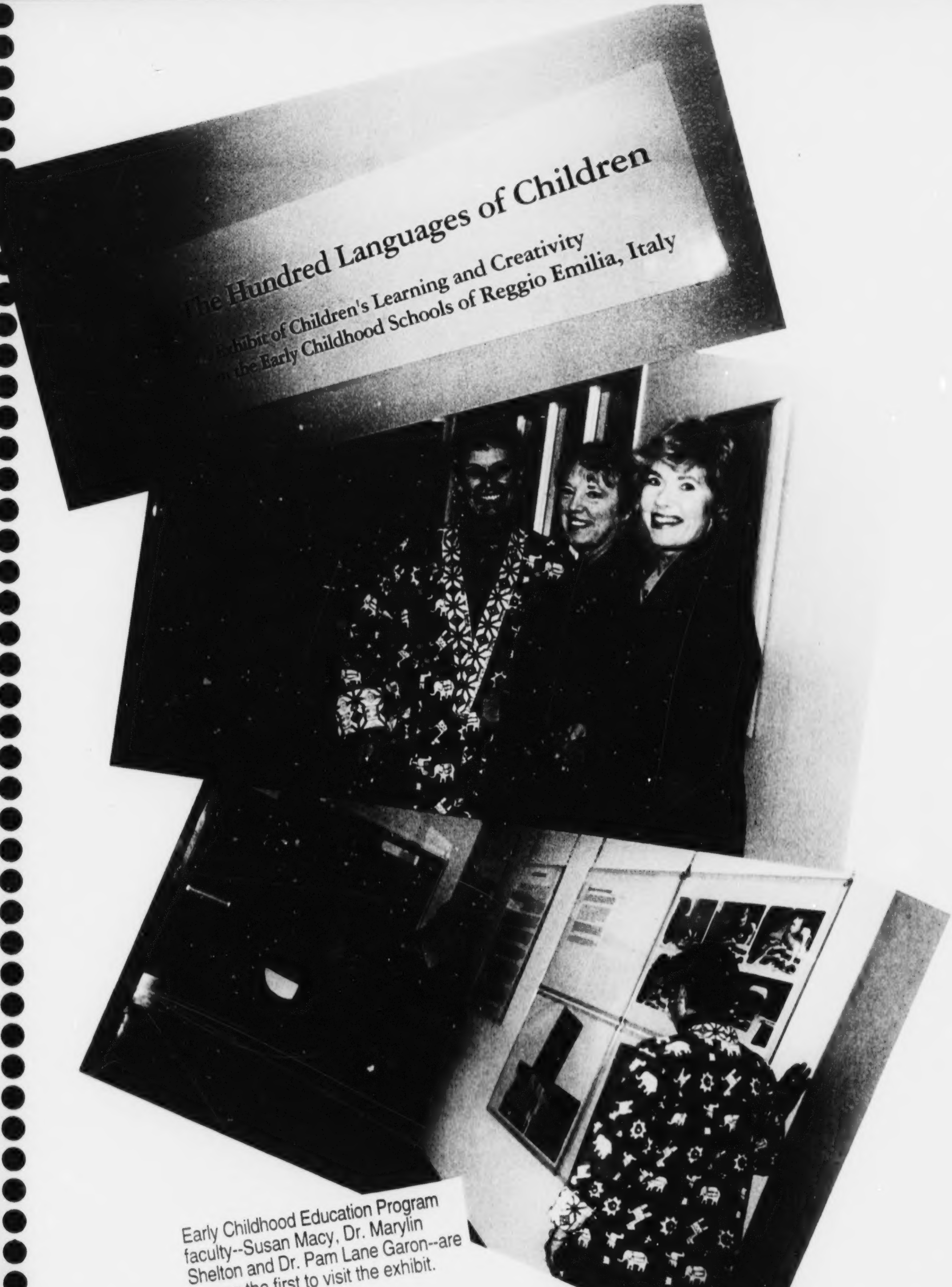


Dr. George Forman shares his analysis of a panel with Dr. Jacques Benninga, Department Chair, Literacy and Early Education.

Luncheon to honor Dr. George Forman is attended by School administrators, faculty and teachers from the Huggins Center.



The evening reception for Dr. George Forman.


The Hundred Languages of Children
xhibit of Children's Learning and Creativity
the Early Childhood Schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy

Early Childhood Education Program faculty--Susan Macy, Dr. Marylin Shelton and Dr. Pam Lane Garon--are among the first to visit the exhibit.

The professional development program, "Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond: An Educational Institute," consisted of a series of four weekend courses in relation to the exhibition.

First institute course, "A Context for the Exhibition Experience," taught by Dr. Shareen Abramson.

Students brainstorm ideas about what an exhibit called the "Hundred Languages of Children" might be like before walking together to see the exhibit for the first time.

A panel discussion by teachers who have had the unforgetable experience to see first-hand the schools in Reggio Emilia.

Second institute course, "Children, Teachers and Parents Learning Together," taught by Dr. Carolyn Edwards. Participants consider how principles from Reggio Emilia might enhance our work with infants and toddlers.

The institute included time in the exhibit for reflection and study.

Third institute course, "Engaging Children's Minds: The Project Approach," taught by Dr. Lilian Katz.

Participants plan a project on the campus, conduct an investigation and create documentation.

Fourth institute course, "Symbolic Languages of Children," taught by Dr. George Forman.

More than 175 participa
examine how materials
further conceptual think

In this small group activity, students represented in clay the concept of "competition" as fishermen vying for a single fish.

**Guided tours led by trained docents were offered to groups of educators, students and others interested in learning more about the exhibition and the Reggio Emilia Approach.**

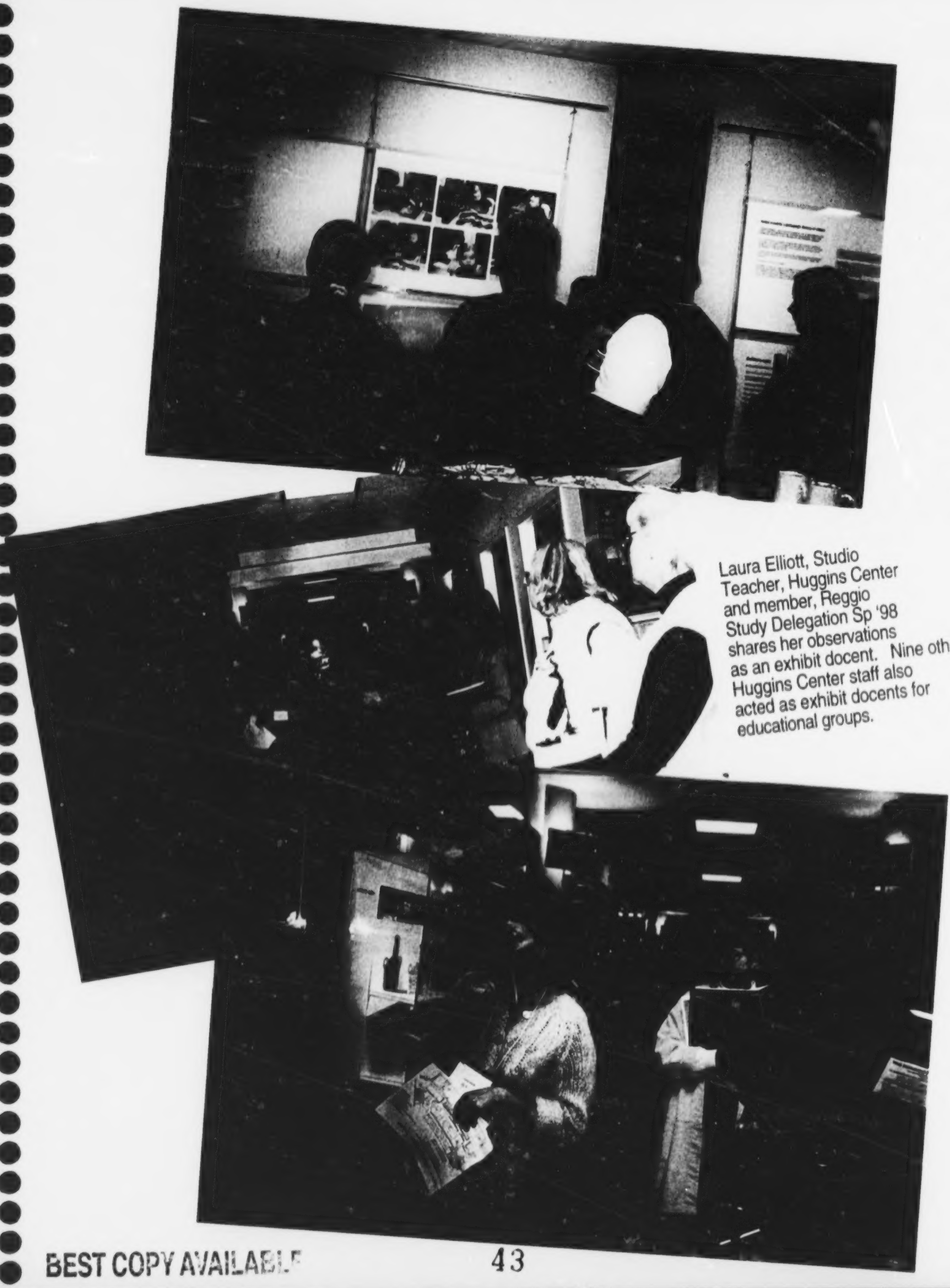
Exhibit posters draw a visitor downstairs to the exhibit.

The Hundred Languages of Children
The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education
tell stories with feet.

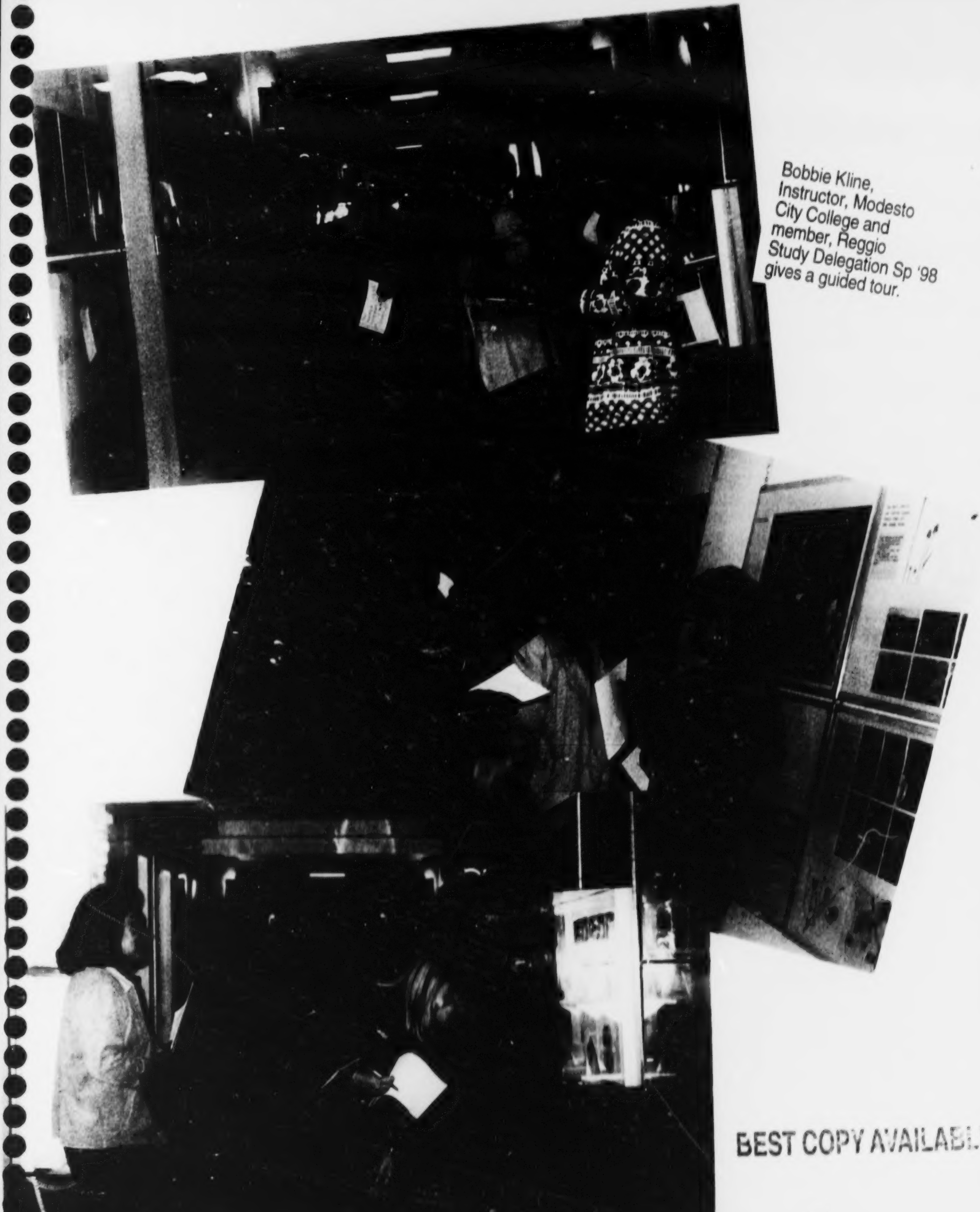
Cathy Venema, one of the exhibit docents.

Photography is not permitted in this gallery

A view of the entryway to the exhibit.



Laura Elliott, Studio Teacher, Huggins Center and member, Reggio Study Delegation Sp '98 shares her observations as an exhibit docent. Nine other Huggins Center staff also acted as exhibit docents for educational groups.

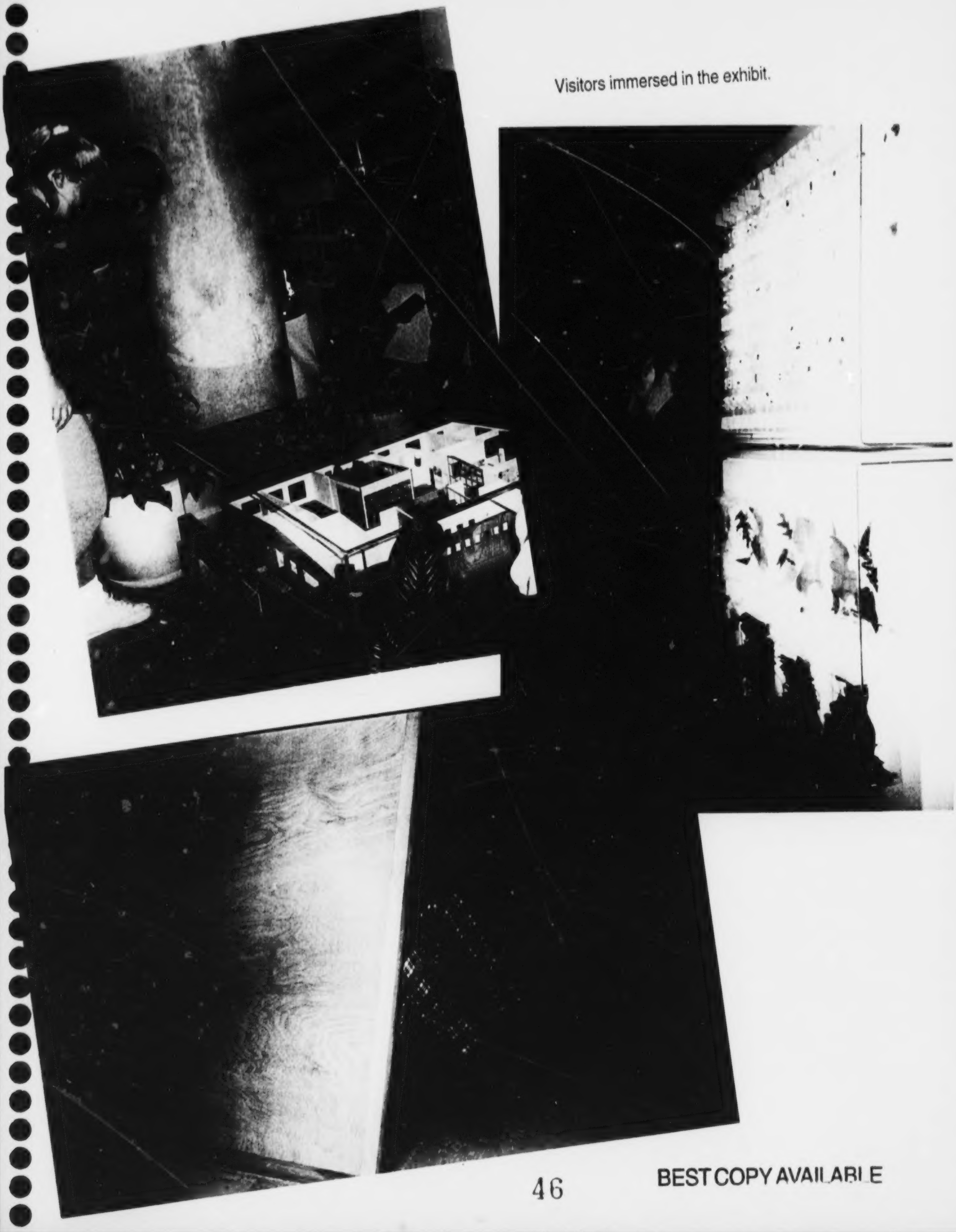


Bobbie Kline, Instructor, Modesto City College and member, Reggio Study Delegation Sp '98 gives a guided tour.

Tour groups received packets of articles and resources on the Reggio Emilia Approach.

Lucy Clark, Instructor, Bakersfield College and her students in the center garden.

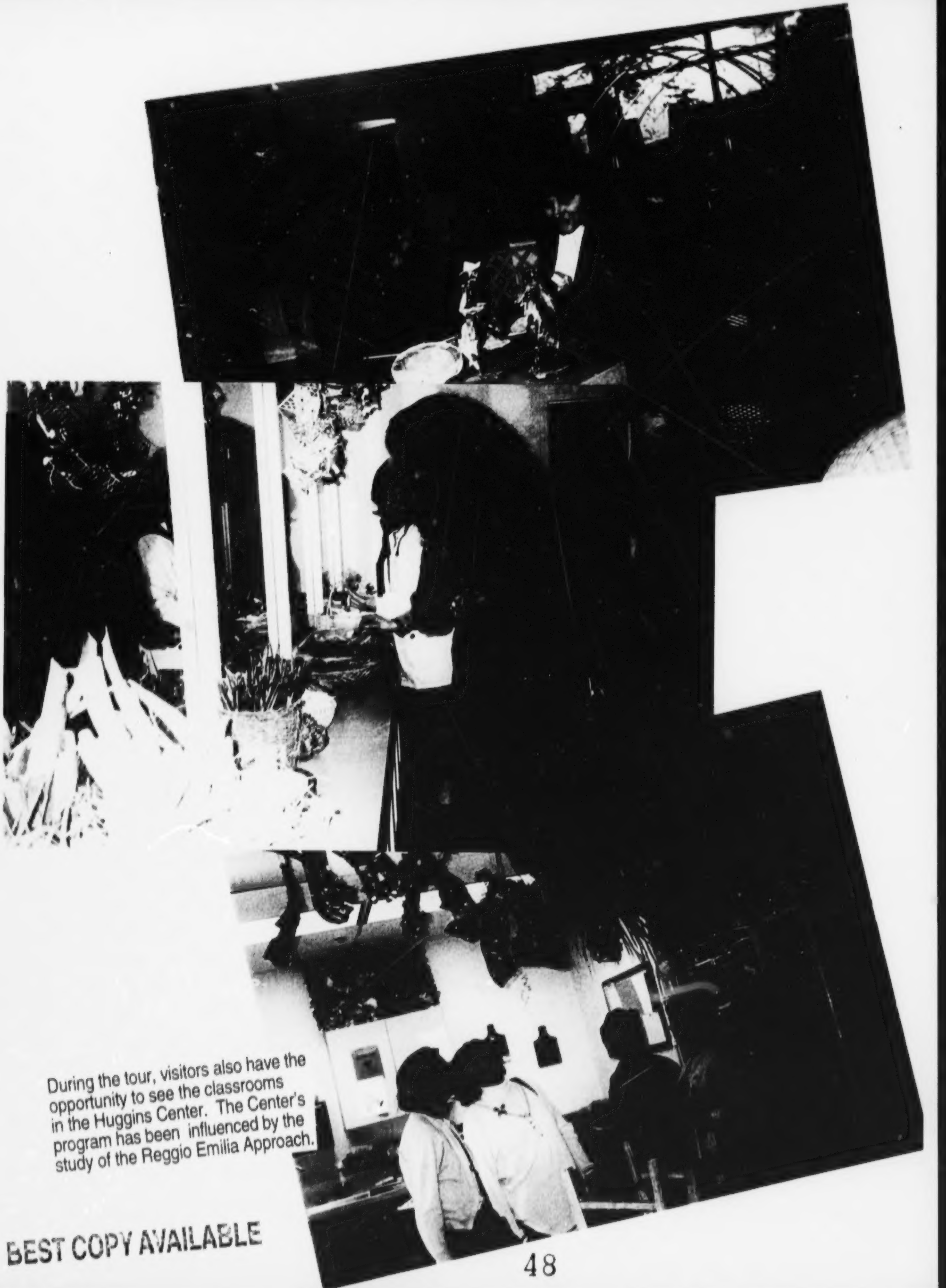
Many ECE programs came on weekends to see the exhibition. This group from the Fullerton area traveled 200 miles by chartered bus.



Visitors immersed in the exhibit.

Visitors touring the exhibition marvel at the work of Reggio's children.

This visitor demonstrates with her mouth how the lips of the girl figure in wire seem to be on the verge of speaking to the boy in wire.



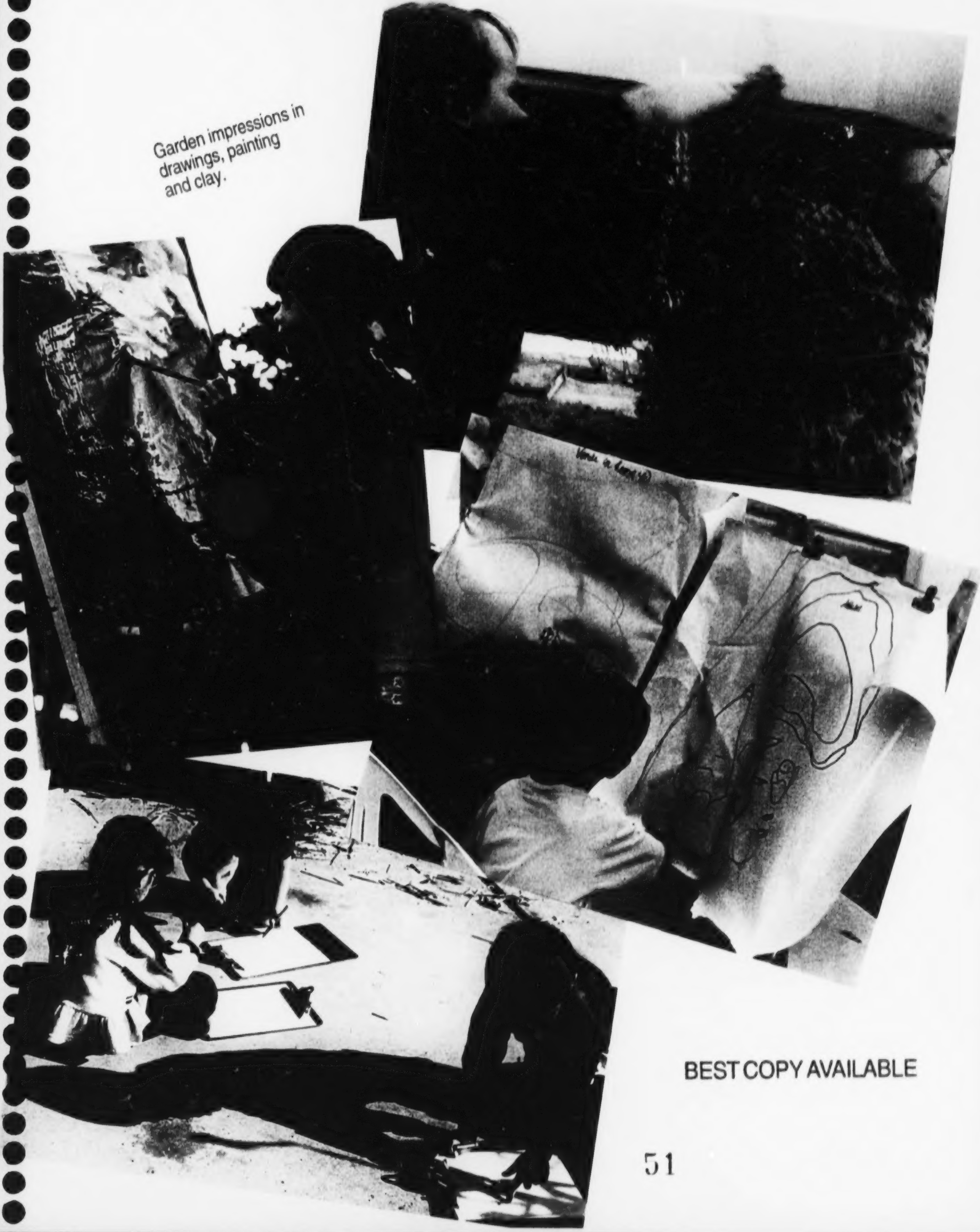
During the tour, visitors also have the opportunity to see the classrooms in the Huggins Center. The Center's program has been influenced by the study of the Reggio Emilia Approach.

During the time the exhibit was at the Huggins Center, projects in and around the garden were ongoing in several classrooms. Those visiting the exhibit were also able to observe the children as they investigated different aspects of the garden. The following section documents some of the project activities that occurred.

Children set up a small vegetable market in their classroom to sell to their parents garden produce and seed packets which they designed.

The delights of the garden include colors, tastes, smells and textures.

Garden impressions in drawings, painting and clay.



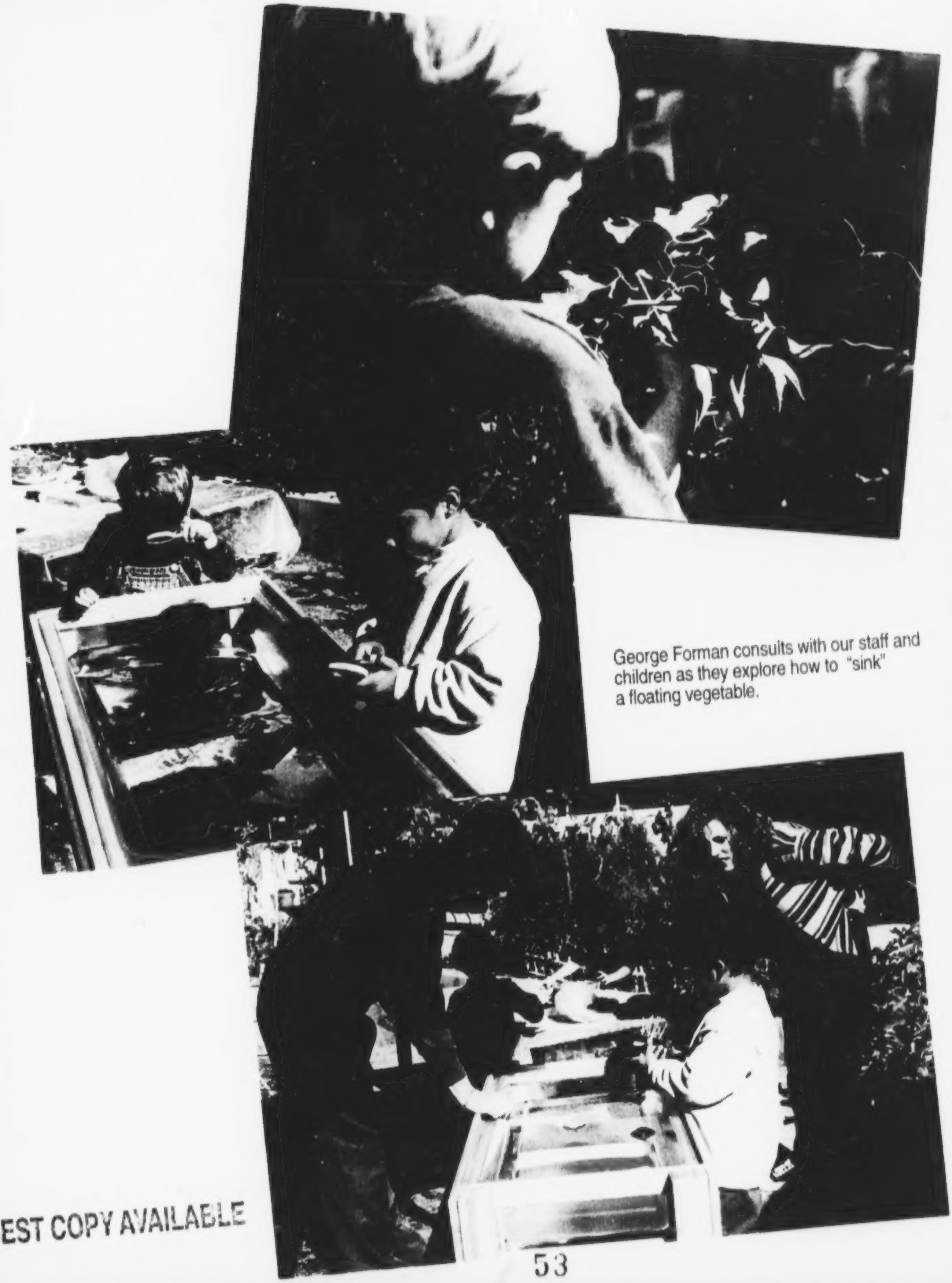
Can I pick this?

Where is the worm going?

The garden provokes the intense interest and curiosity of the children.

Are these seeds?

Is this a weed?



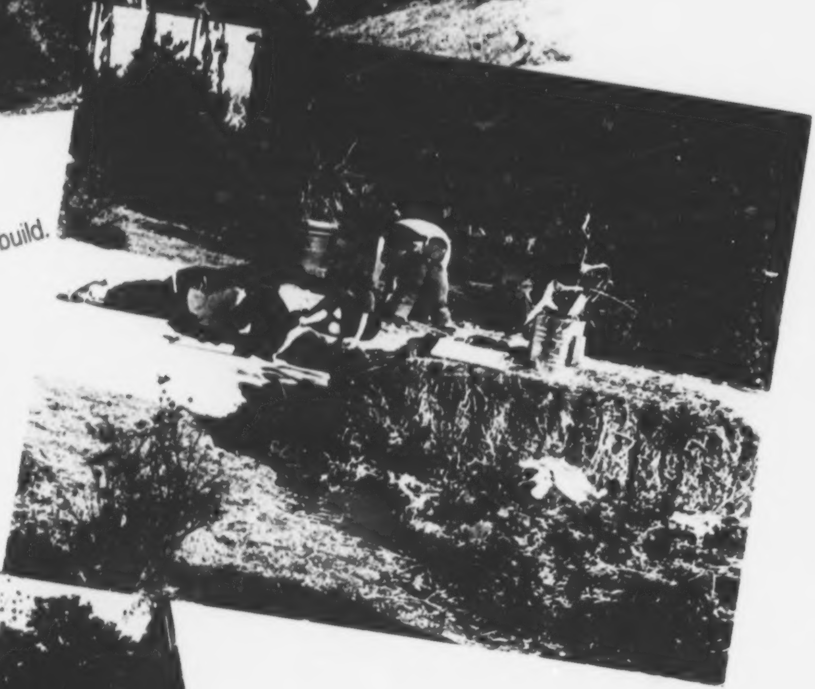
George Forman consults with our staff and children as they explore how to "sink" a floating vegetable.

Children investigate several arbors on the campus and draw their observations of how the arbor is constructed and the different arbor designs.

Exchanging ideas on arbor design enriches the children's thinking.

Together the children and teachers create a human arbor and walk through it.

Drawing arbor designs for the arbor we will build.



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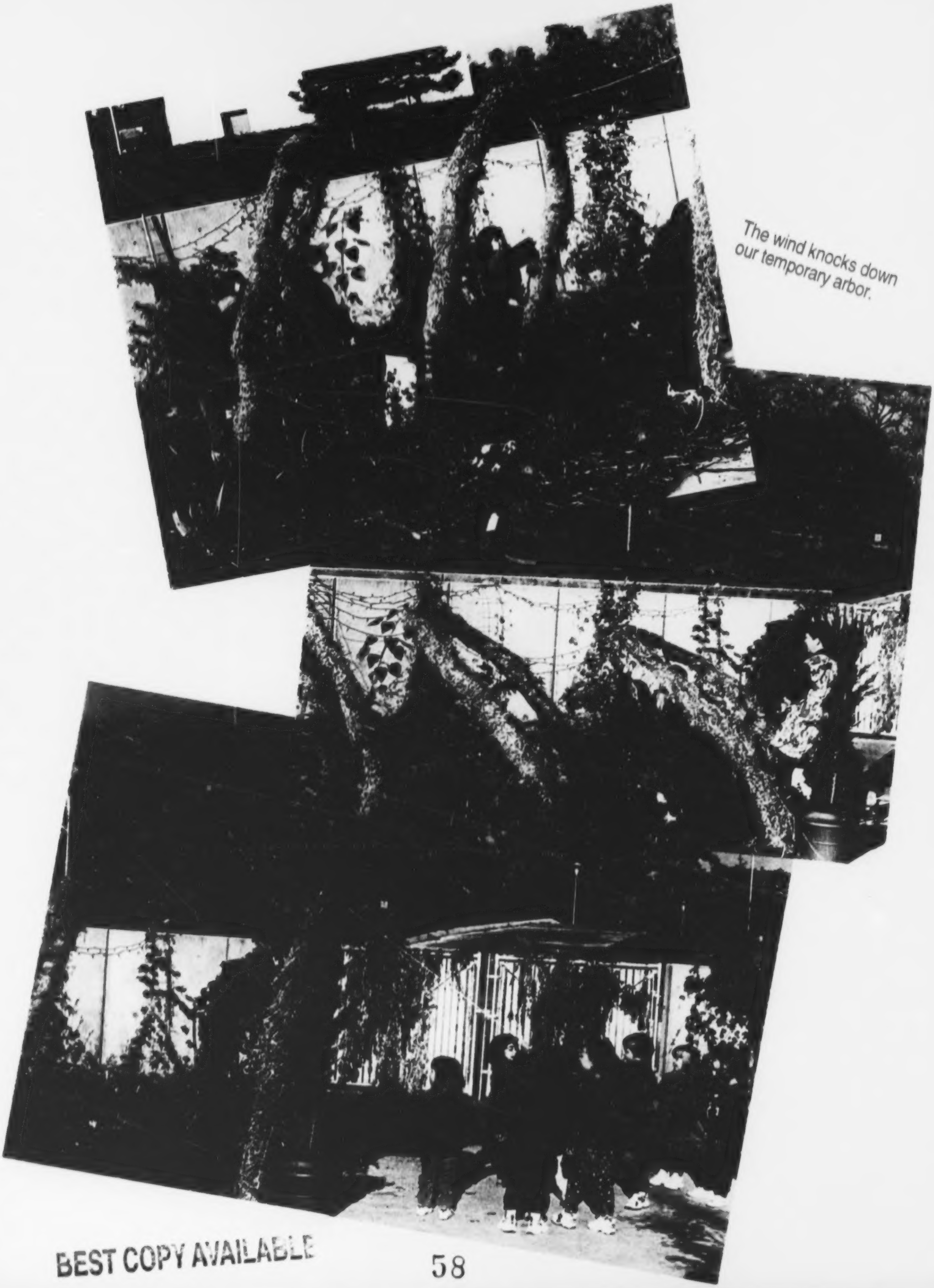
Our Fall arbor takes shape in the garden.

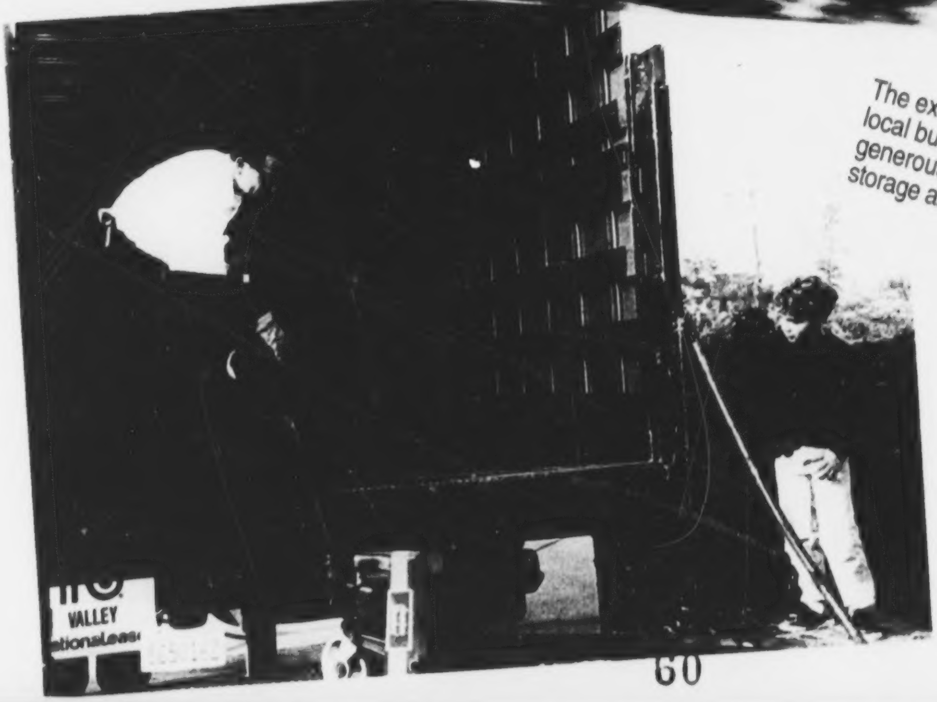


The wind knocks down our temporary arbor.

The children discover how the string connecting the temporary arbor affects the position and uprightness of the arbor arches.

Using twigs and string two children make a replica of the arbor to experiment further with the relation of the string to the position of the arches.

northAmerican



VALLEY
ationalLeas

The exhibit leaves Fresno. A local business, Inland Star, generously assisted with exhibit storage and loading.

# Press Releases, Articles and Announcements

FRESNO STATE
California State University, Fresno

**NEWS**
Office of University Relations
Fresno, California 93740-8027
(209) 278-2795

Contact: Tom Uribes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 1998

# "HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN" EXHIBITION FROM ITALY TO RUN AT FRESNO STATE THIS FALL

"The Hundred Languages of Children," an internationally-acclaimed traveling educational exhibition from Reggio Emilia, Italy, will come to California State University, Fresno from Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.

Early childhood educators from throughout the state, along with students and others interested in children will be invited to the exhibition of children's work from the preschools run by the city of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy and considered by experts to be the best early education system in the world.

The exhibit will be displayed in the university's School of Education and Human Development, Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center.

The three-month exhibit will be free of charge and open to the general public. Guided tours for groups will also be available for $5.00 per person.

In conjunction with the exhibit, an educational institute, "Reggio Emilia and Beyond," will also be offered through Extended Education and will include four weekend courses.

Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center, said the courses will be taught by some of the foremost early childhood authorities who will exam specific strategies to enhance children's linguistic, cognitive and creative development.

Hours for the exhibit will be: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and closed on Sundays.

— MORE —

## Page 2 - Hundred Languages Exhibit

The Huggins Center utilizes a curriculum influenced by the Reggio Approach with the 200 children it enrolls every semester. The children at the center range in age from three months to 12 years-old with priority and financial assistance given to children of low-income student parents attending the university.

"The exhibition celebrates the potential of young children that can be realized when teachers and families work as partners to provide stimulating, intellectually challenging contexts for learning. "The Reggio Approach is based on the belief that early artistic and creative education are critical to intellectual development," Abramson said.

"The system allows children to speak the 'Hundred Languages,' or to express their ideas through linguistic, musical, visual, mathematical, and kinesthetic representation."

The traveling exhibition has appeared in Washington D.C., New York, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Santa Fe, and Boulder. The exhibit has received wide acclaim at its previous showings.

Abramson said this event underscores the Huggins Center's mission to be an exemplary model for teacher education and innovative programming.

"The Huggins Center provides leadership and guidance for educational reform efforts at the state and local levels to improve early childhood education and services to children and families," she said.

Huggins Center teachers are receiving special training for the exhibit. Four preschool teachers from the center recently traveled to Italy on a 10-day excursion to learn more about the Reggio Approach and the exhibit. They participated in the Italian Study Program in June as part of a $17,600 grant that Abramson obtained from the Bonner Family Foundation to support the visual arts education program at the center.

Funding for the exhibit itself is provided primarily by a grant from the Child Development Training Consortium, a funded program of the state Department of Education designed to increase the number of qualified child care providers in California.

— MORE —

Page 3 - Hundred Languages Exhibit

Sponsors for the educational programming include the Fresno County Office of Education and the State Center Consortium.

The exhibit consists of 200 large plexiglas panels that are five-feet by five-feet. They will be displayed throughout the Atrium level of the Education.

For additional information about the exhibit and guided tours, contact the Huggins Center at (209) 278-0225. For additional information and fees for the educational institute, contact Extended Education at (209) 278-0333.

###

**FRESNO STATE**
*California State University, Fresno*

**NEWS**

Office of University Relations •
Fresno, California 93740-8027 •
(209) 278-2795 •

Contact: Tom Uribes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 1998

**NOTE: News coverage opportunities on Friday, Sept. 18 for the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition include a tour by 30 Mendota child care teachers at 8 a.m.; a presentation by Dr. Brad Mitchell from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Ed-140; the second in a series of seminars featuring Dr. Carolyn Edwards from 4-10 p.m. in Ed-170; and, a dedication reception honoring the Bonner Family Foundation from 5-7 p.m. in the Children's Garden of the Education Building (lower level, west of the Atrium). Details on the Mitchell and Edwards talks and the Bonner reception are forthcoming. Call University Relations if you need a copy of the original release (8/11/98) about the exhibit and the Reggio Approach early childhood education system.**

## EDUCATIONAL GROUPS VISITING 'HUNDRED LANGUAGES' EXHIBITION AT FRESNO STATE

The traveling "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition opened Tuesday, Sept. 15 at the Fresno State campus with 30 Roosevelt High School (Fresno) students who were the first of several educational groups from throughout the state planning to visit during the three-month run.

The exhibition of 200 large Plexiglas panels, light boxes and cases -- now on display in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center in the university's Education Building Atrium -- features children's work from the preschools run by the city of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy and considered by experts to be the best early education system in the world.

Educational groups are coming from as far as the coast and the bay area with Mendota day care teachers scheduled to visit Friday, Sept. 18 at 8 a.m., said Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center, who worked the past five years to bring the exhibition to Fresno.

Other schools or groups who have already booked visits include the Madera County Office of Education, Fresno Unified Schools - Child Development Programs, the St. Agnes Child Care Center, Yuba City Community College, Modesto Community College, Fresno City College, Monterey Peninsula Community College, Bakersfield College, Fresno County Child Care Center Directors, and the Council of California State University Children's Center directors.

— MORE —

## PAGE 2 - Hundred Languages Opens

An accompany institute, "Reggio Emilia and Beyond," consisting of four separate courses, will be offered during the exhibition. Enrollment in the institute or for individual courses is available through the university's Extended Education at (209) 278-0333.

The first seminar on Sept. 12 attracted 53 people. Also, 15 volunteer docents were trained to assist with the exhibition. The fee is $89 each and pre-registration is recommended.

Instructors for the remaining seminars are Dr. Carolyn Pope Edwards, psychology and family studies professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln on Sept. 18 and 19; Dr. Lillian Katz, early childhood education professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign on Oct. 9 and 10 (filled); and Dr. George Forman, education professor at the University of Massachusetts on Nov. 6 and 7.

On Friday, Sept. 18, Dr. Brad Mitchell, an Ohio educator who has studied the Reggio Approach, will be on campus for a presentation entitled "Bringing Reggio Home: Policy, Leadership and Classroom Dynamics" to about 50 faculty, educators and others at a reserved luncheon.

Primary funding support for the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition was provided by the Child Development Training Consortium from the state's Department of Education with major regional support from the State Center Consortium of Community Colleges, Central Section Association for the Education of Young Children and central valley county school superintendents from Tulare, Mariposa, Madera, Kings, and Fresno counties.

Local funding sources include the Bonner Family Foundation, Supportive Services of Fresno County, St. Agnes Hospital, Children's Services Network, Fresno County Association for the Education of Young Children, Inland Star Distribution Centers, Inc., and Fresno State Extended Education Division.

The free exhibit is open to the general public Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and closed on Sundays. Guided tours for groups are also available for $5.00 per person and must be arranged in advance.

For more educational institute information, contact Extended Education at (209) 278-0333. For information about the exhibit and guided tours, contact the Huggins Center at (209) 278-0225.

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FRESNO STATE
California State University, Fresno

NEWS
Office of University Relations
Fresno, California 93740-8027
(209) 278-2795

Contact: Tom Uribes

MEDIA ADVISORY
September 18, 1998

**NOTE: Dr. Brad Mitchell's presentation is not open to the public but is available for news coverage. Dr. Edwards' lecture is a class that is available through Extended Education but also open to news coverage. For more details, contact Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center, at 278-0225. Call University Relations if you need a copy of the previous releases with details on the exhibit and the Reggio Approach.**

## 'REGGIO APPROACH' EXPERTS TO SPEAK AT 'HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN' SEPT. 18 AND 19

Dr. Carolyn Pope Edwards and Dr. Brad Mitchell, experts in the Reggio Approach early childhood education system, will speak Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19, as part of the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition that opened this week on campus.

On Friday, Mitchell, an Ohio educator, will discuss "Bringing Reggio Home: Policy, Leadership and Classroom Dynamics" to about 50 faculty and other educators at 12:30 p.m. in Education Bldg., Rm. 140.

Edwards, a University of Nebraska professor, will present the second in four seminars offered during the exhibition on Friday from 4 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Education Bldg., Rm. 170. The topic is "Children, Teachers and Parents: Relations for Learning and Well-being."

The "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition, which runs through Dec. 15, is on display in the university's Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center located in the Education Building's Atrium.

Mitchell, an associate professor in the School of Educational Policy and Leadership at the Ohio State University, is the author of the book, "Educational Leadership and Changing Contexts of Families, Communities and Schools."

He is part of a team of educators working with the Ohio State Department of Education to train teachers in utilizing aspects of the Reggio Approach in public school classrooms.

Edwards, whose two-day talk is part of the educational institute of three classes examining the Reggio Approach, is professor of psychology and family studies at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

She has studied Italian programs that provide family-centered early childhood education and care since 1983, and is one of the editors of "The Hundred Languages of Children: the Reggio Approach to Early Childhood Education."

Enrollment in the institute is available by contacting Extended Education at (209) 278-0333.

For more information about the exhibition and guided tours, call the Huggins Center at (209) 278-0225.

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FRESNO STATE
California State University, Fresno

NEWS
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(209) 278-2795

**Contact: Tom Uribes**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**
September 18, 1998

**NOTE: Call University Relations if you need a copy of the previous releases with details on the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition.**

## BONNER FAMILY FOUNDATION TO BE HONORED AT 'HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN' DEDICATION 9/18

The Bonner Family Foundation will be honored Friday, Sept. 18, by the California State University, Fresno School of Education and Human Development for the foundation's support of university and community projects such as the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition that opened this week on campus.

The foundation will be honored at a special reception marking the formal dedication of the exhibition on Friday, Sept. 18 from 5-7 p.m. in the Children's Garden of the Education Building.

The garden is located on the building's lower level, west of the Atrium where the exhibition is on display through Dec. 15 in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center.

Dr. Paul Shaker, education dean, said the Bonner Foundation gives high priority to educational and cultural enrichment programs intended for schools.

"The Bonner family has made an enormous contribution to improving the quality of life in our community through support of visual and performing arts -- Art Museum, Philharmonic, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Parkway, public television, public radio, numerous special programs and activities in the arts as well as our center," Shaker said.

Part of the Bonner support helped the school send four instructors to Italy for four weeks in June to study the Reggio Approach. The Higgins Educational Study Delegation that went to Italy in June consisted of Laura Elliot, studio teacher; Mary Setyono, master teacher; Mary Hebert-Hall, master teacher; and Julie Razavi, clinical faculty and part-time university instructor.

Underwritten by the Child Development Training Consortium from the state's Department of Education, the $30,000 exhibition has also garnered major regional support for associated educational programming from the State Center Consortium of Community Colleges, Central Section Association for the Education of Young Children and the central valley county school superintendents from Tulare, Mariposa, Madera, Kings, and Fresno counties.

In addition to the Bonner Foundation, local funding sources include Supportive Services of Fresno County, St. Agnes Hospital, Children's Services Network, the Fresno County Association for the Education of Young Children, Inland Star Distribution Centers, Inc., and the Fresno State Extended Education.

For more information about the exhibition and guided tours, call the Huggins Center at (209) 278-0225.

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FRESNO STATE
*California State University, Fresno*

**NEWS**

Office of University Relations •
Fresno, California 93740-8027 •
(209) 278-2795 •

Contact: Tom Uribes

**MEDIA ADVISORY**
October 8, 1998

## INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EDUCATOR PRESENTS THIRD 'HUNDRED LANGUAGES' SEMINAR OCT. 9 & 10

Dr. Lilian Katz, a University of Illinois professor who is a world-renowned expert in early childhood education, will lead this weekend's "Hundred Languages of Children" seminar.

She will also be honored by the School of Education and Human Development at a reception Friday, Oct. 9 at 5 p.m. in the Children's Garden outside west end of the Education Building.

The seminar, "Engaging Children's Minds: The Project Approach," is the third in a series of four that comprise the "Reggio Emilia and Beyond" institute being held this semester in conjunction with the traveling exhibition.

The Oct. 9 and 10 sessions, which are filled, will be held in room 140 of the Education Building.

The "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition, currently on display in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center of the university's Education Building, consists of 200 large Plexiglas panels, light boxes and cases features children's work from the preschools run by the city of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy and considered to be the best early education system in the world.

Katz is considered one of the foremost authorities in early childhood education and has published extensively on the education system in Reggio Emilia, said Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center.

She is a professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Katz is past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; world-renowned lecturer; author of more than 100 publications; and recipient of two Fulbright Awards and many honors. She is also the author of "Engaging Children's Minds."

The final "Reggio Emilia and Beyond" seminar, on Nov. 6 and 7, will feature Dr. George Forman, education professor at the University of Massachusetts.

The "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition is free and open to the general public Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and closed on Sundays. Guided tours for groups are also available for $5.00 per person and must be arranged in advance.

For information about the exhibit and guided tours, contact the Huggins Center at (209) 278-0225.

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Local News

THE FRESNO BEE • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

# Exhibit explores child development

## Artwork will be on display at Fresno State until Dec. 15.

By David Hale
THE FRESNO BEE

Educators have long advocated early instruction in the arts for children, maintaining that it encourages thinking ability, creativity and learning in general.

The Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center at California State University, Fresno, aims to reinforce that philosophy by presenting "The Hundred Languages of Children," a multimedia exhibition of art from northern Italy.

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** Multimedia exhibition of art from northern Italy
**When:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, extended to 8 p.m. Wednesdays; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays
**Where:** Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center at California State University, Fresno
**Information:** 278-0225 or 278-0333

The drawings and paintings are the work of students in a preschool district in Reggio Emilia, Italy, a city of about 125,000.

About 200 pieces of art will be on display from Tuesday through Dec. 15 in the center in the university's School of Education and Human Development.

"This is a very big deal, we've been on the waiting list [for the show for] five years," said Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the center.

"The exhibition is provocative, and the overall quality of the work will surprise you. But it's not a show for children; it's a message for adults about how much more we could be doing for our own children."

As an adjunct to the exhibit, leading

Please see **Art**, Page B2

# **Art**: Child development explored

Continued from Page B2

educators and other experts on child development will appear in "Reggio Emilia and Beyond," an educational institute directed at educators. The instructors will explore various strategies, including early arts training, to give children a head start. The university's Department of Extended Education will present the institute as four weekend courses.

The Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center serves about 200 children, mainly those of low-income students at Fresno State. The children range in age from a few months old to about 12 years. Instruction and child care follow a curriculum, director Abramson says, that is influenced by the "Reggio Approach" to preschool education.

Teachers at the Fresno State center recently spent 10 days in Reggio Emilia studying the Reggio Approach and the exhibit in a study program financed in part by a grant from the Bonner Family Foundation of Fresno.

"Hundred Languages of Children" has been much lauded in previous showings in several major cities in the United States, among them San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and New York. The Child Development Training Consortium, a division of the State Department of Education, provided $30,000 to support the Fresno State show.

# Your Neighborhood

## CSUF exhibit highlights Italian preschool program

By Jeff Garza
NEIGHBORS STAFF WRITER

"The Hundred Languages of Children," a traveling educational art exhibit from Reggio Emilia, Italy, will come to California State University, Fresno, for a show starting Tuesday and continuing through Dec. 15.

The three-month exhibit will on display at the Joyce Huggins Early Education Center, located at the university's School of Education and Human Development.

The exhibit is a showcase for the early childhood education system run by the city of Reggio Emilia in northern Italy. The system emphasizes complex cognitive stimulation and emotional stability for children beginning at the earliest ages possible, often starting as young as 2 years old. Verbal ability is stressed, and children are especially encouraged to be open and talkative.

The world-renowned program is respected among scholars in the field of early childhood development. The Reggio Emilia curriculum offers exposure in a broad spectrum of the fine arts and sciences.

"Research suggests that the period up to the age of 8 is one of tremendous learning ability," said Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center. "These schools have achieved immense success."

Fresno Unified School District Superintendent Carlos Garcia recently attended a sneak preview of the exhibit. Many Valley child care providers, teachers and educators with interests in educational reform are expected to attend the exhibit.

"This exhibit is not to be missed by people who care about high quality programs for young children that are essential to high achievement," Abramson said. "We're thrilled to have this project here. We intend to use it as a tool to promote high quality child care for children."

More than 200 large plexiglass panels will be on display, featuring artwork done by groups of classmates. The art also serves to emphasize the educational philosophy of the Reggio Emilia program.

Some of the art includes sequences of photographs documenting the daily life of the children in Italy, with transcriptions of dialogue that bring out the keen insights of these young children.

"Many thoughts of young children are often disregarded," said Abramson. "Here they are heard. When we listen to children it's like a curtain lifting."

The panels also display reflections of teachers as they recorded the learning process, which program facilitators consider to be a dynamic one between student and teacher. This dynamic learning process is translated into a "negotiated curriculum."

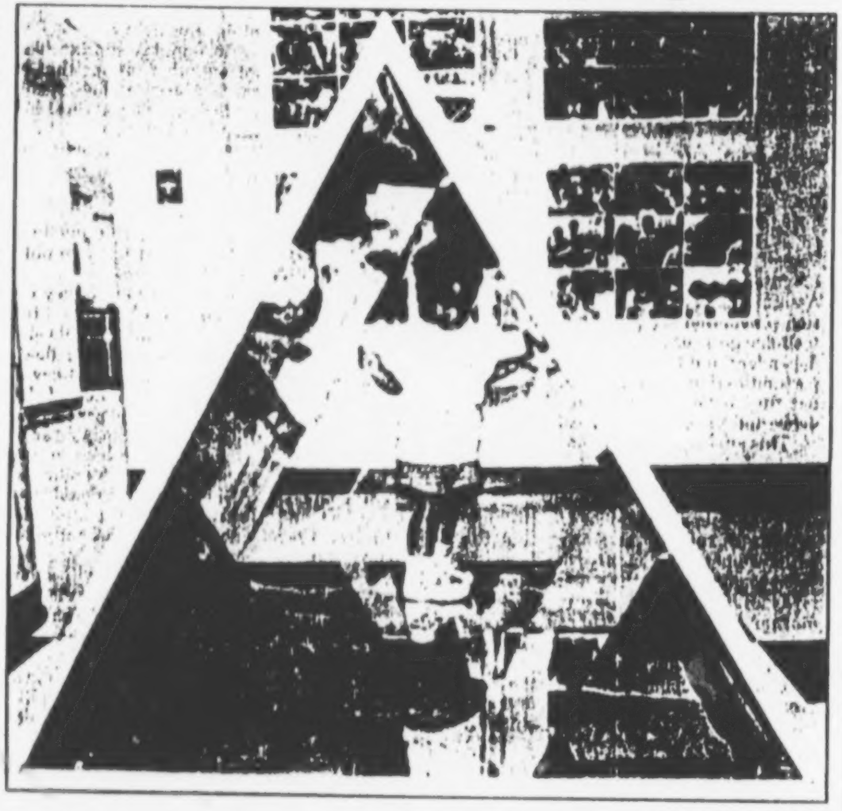
The exhibit is organized around nine major themes designed to promote intellectual awareness. Some examples of themes include "Shadowiness", a project that promotes scientific reasoning skills in the children by teaching them to trace the movements of shadows in drawings.

Other themes include "Color in Our Hands," and "Harvesting Grapes with the Farmers," which teaches children about the customs of farm families and of belonging to a larger cultural context.

"Rain in the City" asks children for their theories on how rain falls from the sky, which they tell in colored pencil drawings. The students are taught to make deductions based on their observations.

Sponsors for the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit include numerous statewide offices of education and the State Center Consortium.

Hours of the exhibit will be Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit is closed on Sundays. Additional information about the exhibit and guided tours is available by calling the CSUF Huggins Center at 278-0225.



ZIA NIZAMI - NEIGHBORS

Kalene Ward, 2, walks into a pyramid-shaped mirror prism, part of a traveling exhibit from an Italian teaching program that accelerates cognitive development in young children. The exhibit at California State University, Fresno, opens next week in the college's Education Department.

## NewsWatch

**Council vacation:** The Fresno City Council will be on vacation until Sept. 15. At that meeting, the State of Historical Preservation Annual Report will be presented. At 6:30 p.m. the council and the Planning Commission will hold a joint meeting.

**Steitz meeting:** District 4 council member Ken Steitz will hold a district meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Calvary Community Church, 4317 E. Gettysburg. Steitz will discuss neighborhood infrastructure improvements, code enforcement issues and plans considered for the old Valley Children's Hospital site.

**Year-round schooling:** The Fresno Unified School District board will discuss reversing its decision to return Ayer Elementary School to a traditional schedule. New information made available to the board indicated removing the school from a year round schedule could result in the loss of $45 million in state funds. The item is set for discussion at 7:40 p.m. at the board's meeting tonight at the district office at Tulare and M streets.

## Resources

### Police Department

**Northeast station**, covering an area generally west of Blackstone Avenue and north of McKinley Avenue to the northern and eastern city limits, is located at 5544 N. Fresno St.; 436-6245; POP Team, 228-6103.

### For police info or help

Abandoned vehicles, 498-2085.

Police Activities League, 498-2508.

Crimes against property, 498-1261

Northwest Edition

Neighbors

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

# 'Hundred Languages' exhibit showcases the art of education

BY JEFF GARZA
NEIGHBORS STAFF WRITER

"The Hundred Languages of Children," a traveling educational art exhibit from Reggio Emilia, Italy, can be seen at California State University, Fresno, in a show that recently opened and continues through Dec. 15.

The three-month exhibit is on display at the Joyce Huggins Early Education Center, located at the university's school of education and human development.

The exhibit is a showcase for the early childhood education system run by the city of Reggio Emilia in northern Italy. The system emphasizes complex cognitive stimulation and emotional stability for children beginning at the earliest ages possible, often starting as young as 2 years old. Verbal ability is stressed, and children are especially encouraged to be open and talkative.

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More than 200 large Plexiglas panels are on display, featuring artwork done by groups of classmates. The art also serves to emphasize the educational philosophy of the Reggio Emilia program.

Some of the art includes sequences of photographs documenting the daily life of the children in Italy, with transcripts of dialogue that bring out the keen insights of these young children.

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The exhibit is organized around nine major themes designed to promote intellectual awareness. Some examples of themes include "Shadowiness,"

Please see **Languages**, Page 7

# **Languages:** Exhibit from Italy focuses on children

**Continued from Page 1**

a project that promotes scientific reasoning skills in the children by teaching them to trace the movements of shadows.

Other themes include "Color in Our Hands" and "Harvesting Grapes with the Farmers," which teaches children the customs of farm families and of belonging to a larger cultural context.

"Rain in the City" asks children for their theories on how rain falls from the sky, which they tell in colored pencil drawings. The students are taught to make deductions based on their observations.

Sponsors for the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit include numerous statewide offices of education and the State Center Consortium.

Hours of the exhibit will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The exhibit is closed on Sundays. Additional information about the exhibit and guided tours is available by calling the Huggins Center at 278-0225.

The
DAILY COLLEGIAN

California State University, Fresno

Volume 110, No. 9 http://www.csufresno.edu/Collegian September 16, 1998

Amy Klass/The Daily Collegian

**Abby, a student at the Huggins Center, is accompanied by her mother and Joyce Huggins in a mirror triangle.**

# Touring children's art exhibit stops at Fresno State

● World-renowned exhibit displays children's art from Italian education program.

**By DeAnna Pronold**
*The Daily Collegian*

"Children have at least 100 languages and want to use them all. They ask for alliance with adults to protect their creative freedom - which is also a space of trust, solidarity and joy."

This is the philosophy of "The 100 Languages of Children," an exhibit currently on display at the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center in the School of Education and Human Development at Fresno State.

The traveling exhibit, which has been touring the United States for seven years and Europe since 1981, will be on display at the until Dec. 15. The exhibit offers a look at the early childhood education system run by the city of Reggio Emilia in northern Italy and considered to be the best in the world by authorities in the education field.

According to Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center, as part of its efforts to rebuild after World War II, the city of Reggio Emilia made a commitment to its children and their education. The city launched a series of parent cooperative preschools and spends one-third of its budget on preschool education.

The system emphasizes intense school work and emotional stability for children and offers exposure in a broad spectrum of the sciences and fine arts.

"These schools are considered to be the finest in the world by numerous professional organizations," said Abramson. "They use media to express symbolic thinking."

The curriculum of preschools in Reggio Emilia has many different aspects, but an important piece of the curriculum is using extended projects or themes in which students express the knowledge of their world.

The paintings, drawings and other forms of sensory expressions are the work of students, whose ages range from infants and toddlers up to six years old. Both the process and results of these early education and care programs are documented in the more than 200 Plexiglas covered panels. Each one of the panels showcases the children's work in a variety of ways.

The exhibit has nine different themes designed to promote intellectual awareness. Through the Reggio Emilia approach, children investigate topics such as shadows, rain and color as a means for exploring ideas, solving problems and representing their knowledge symbolically.

Some examples of these themes include "Harvesting Grapes with Farmers," which aims to teach children about the customs of farm families and culture, "Shadowiness," which teaches children to

Please see **ART**, page 2.

# Art

continued from page 1

trace the movements of shadows and promotes scientific reasoning skills, and "Rain in the City," which shows through drawings the children's theories on how rain falls from the sky.

Abramson said this exhibit is not an art show, although many of the pieces are pleasing to the eye. But rather, it is a showcase for this particular approach to teaching preschool children, and how they are able to expand their knowledge through the use of different means.

"The reason the exhibit is called 'The 100 Languages' is because according to this philosophy children have the capacity to express ideas in many languages," said Abramson. "The verbal language is only one language."

Fresno State has been on a waiting list for five years for the exhibit and received funding in part from the Child Development Training Consortium, a division of the State Department of Education and the Bonner Family Foundation of Fresno. But according to Abramson it is more than just having the exhibit on display.

"The exhibit is here because we are actively engaged in studying this approach and bringing these ideas to our region in order to improve and enhance early education and care for children," said Abramson.

This approach influenced the instruction and child care curriculum of the Huggins Center, located on campus. The center serves approximately 200 children, mainly those of low-income students at Fresno State.

Abramson is expecting approximately 10,000 visitors, of which many will be from the educational field. Visitor's guides and maps will be available for those attending the exhibit.

In addition to the exhibit, leading educators and experts on early child development from around the country will appear in "Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond," an educational institute with seminars on the Reggio Approach and early childhood education.

Abramson hopes that the exhibit will have a transforming impact on education.

"There is an importance for all of us to have a commitment to children and to their education," said Abramson. "Because that is what will make society better."

University
Journal

California State University, Fresno

Monday, October 19, 1998

Volume 2 ❖ Number 6

*A bi-weekly publication for the university community*

**IN THIS ISSUE**

3 Six academic schools propose name change

4 Malik Simba to speak on "Issues of Law and Equity"

5 First Entrepreneur in Residence visits campus

# Chancellor meets supporters, detractors

Photo by Eusevio Arias

*Chancellor Charles Reed visited Fresno for three busy days earlier this month and participated in several activities including a tour (right) of the "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition, with his wife, Cathy. Shareen Abramson (far right), director of the Joyce Huggins Early Education Center, gave the tour. Above, Reed speaks to the campus community at a reception in the University Restaurant.*

by Tom Uribes

r. Charles Reed's recent whirlwind three-day visit to Fresno took him from the excitement of a Bulldog football upset victory to the passions of a faculty union imploring the California State University chancellor to meet its collective bargaining proposals.

Throughout the chancellor's visit, Oct. 3-5, teachers were the centerpiece. Reed also plugged Proposition 1A, the $9.2 billion bond measure on the November ballot that would provide $832 million to the CSU system.

"In the next five years, California will be at a crossroads for public higher education," Reed said at one of his many stops, the "Celebration of Giving" dinner hosted by the School of Education and Human Development Oct. 4. "Fresno State has a major responsibility in this state to prepare the teacher work force," he said. "The quality of the teacher is important. A good teacher makes a difference in a child's education."

President John D. Welty credited Reed with making a difference in a number of areas, particularly teacher preparation, since he took over the 23-campus system in March.

"He generated more than $11 million in appropriations for teacher preparation in the system," Welty said. "He got the board of trustees to deal not only with teacher shortages but the quality of teachers also."

*Continued on next page*

# News in Brief

### Egan named Summer Arts campus coordinator

Candace Egan, videographer in the Academic Innovator Center, has been appointed campus coordinator for the CSU Summer Arts Festival. The $1.5 million program has been awarded to Fresno State for the next three years after 13 years at the Long Beach, Cal Poly, and Humboldt campuses. Egan will serve as the university's liaison with the Summer Arts headquarters at the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach. The 1999 festival is set for late June and July. Margarita Luna Robles, former Fresno State lecturer, was appointed community coordinator. The campus Summer Arts office is in Speech Arts 150-A; the phone is ext. 8-5070. ❖ *–tu*

### Band Day will feature 27 high schools

Fresno State's Marching Band will host its 3rd annual Band Day on Saturday, Oct. 24, featuring 27 bands from high schools throughout California in a special rock n' roll half-time show at the Bulldogs vs. University of Texas, El Paso game. The bands will perform "Chantilly Lace," with KMPH weatherman Kopi Soturopolous providing the voice of the Big Bopper; Richie Valens' "La Bamba"; and Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog." ❖ *–tu*

### History expert to speak on Macedonian treasures

Archaeology lecturer Dr. Eugene N. Borza will speak on "Treasures of the Macedonian Royal Tombs" on Monday, Nov. 2, in the Satellite Student Union at 7 p.m. Borza's presentation highlights the last two decades of research and excavation of Macedonian tombs. Borza also will discuss the identity of the persons interred in the tombs, including what some believe are the remains of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Borza is a professor emeritus of ancient history, Pennsylvania State University. ❖ *–mlr*

*Continued from cover*

# Chancellor visits campus

Fresno County Schools Superintendent Dr. Pete Mehas called the chancellor "clearly a man of vision who does not mince words."

"He understands and articulates the CSU's mission — to prepare teachers for the work force," Mehas said. "As a K-12 educator the past 36 years, I was very gratified to hear the chancellor of one of the largest education systems in the nation say that system needs to work closely with K-12."

Mehas said Reed asked his staff questions about the partnership between county schools and the university at a reception with area superintendents.

Reed, who previously served 13 years as chancellor of the State University System of Florida, also stressed the role of California's state universities in all disciplines, saying he was attracted to the CSU by its mission — to educate tomorrow's work force.

He noted that the CSU system currently produces 65 percent of the state's teachers, 60 percent of its engineers, and 70 percent of its nurses.

Reed made several stops on campus and in the community, including his most public appearance Oct. 3, when he was honored at half-time of the BYU football game.

The chancellor got an earful from the California Faculty Association, which demonstrated against an impasse in contract negotiations by staging two informational rallies on campus Oct. 5.

The union wants a 4.75 percent pay raise and changes to the merit pay system; CSU is offering the faculty a 2.5 percent general pay increase and a $16.2 million merit pay pool. The contract expired in June but its terms have been extended while the two sides are in mediation.

Dr. Chandra Brahma, an engineering professor and president of the faculty union, said the chancellor is collegial, personable and sociable.

"On that level, I have profound admiration for him. Other than labor issues, he seems good to deal with," Brahma said.

*Manuel Nunez (right) of International Student Services and Programs asked Chancellor Reed about the CSU's EPT and ELM testing policies during a reception on campus.*

He doesn't believe Reed will move from his labor stance very quickly.

"He needs to be educated about the culture of the California State University since he's coming from a different state and style of doing things," Brahma said. "He needs to learn we do things differently here. There is a 180 degree difference between Florida and here."

The chancellor left a favorable impression on others in the campus community.

"I like … that he characterizes us as being strong in our own right," said Dr. Vivian Vidoli, dean of graduate studies, who attended the Administrative Roundtable meeting with him Monday morning. She added that Reed is the first chancellor who made her feel he "will do something positive for graduate programs."

Manuel Nunez, International Student Services and Programs counselor, who is a member of the Fresno Unified School District board of trustees, said the chancellor was "very amenable" on the issue of allowing high school students to take the EPT and ELM tests prior to their senior year.

"He told me he would talk to someone about seeing if that test could be taken at the end of the sophomore year, which would help us address concerns of remedial education," Nunez said, noting that Provost Michael Ortiz has previously discussed this with the chancellor. ❖

University Journal

August 24, 1998 Vol. 2, No. 2

The University Journal is published bi-weekly by the Office of University Relations at California State University, Fresno to inform faculty and staff of matters of mutual concern and to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas.

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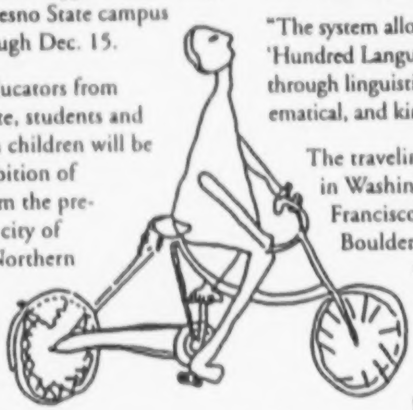
# "Hundred Languages of Children" exhibition from Italy to run at Fresno State this fall

by Tom Uribes

"The Hundred Languages of Children," an internationally acclaimed traveling educational exhibition from Reggio Emilia, Italy, will come to the Fresno State campus from Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.

Early childhood educators from throughout the state, students and others interested in children will be invited to the exhibition of children's work from the preschools run by the city of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy and considered by experts to be the best early education system in the world.



The exhibit will be displayed in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center in the Atrium area of the Education Building. The exhibit will be free of charge and open to the general public. Guided tours for groups will also be available for $5 per person.

In conjunction with the exhibit, an educational institute, "Reggio Emilia and Beyond," will be offered through Extended Education and will include four weekend courses. Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center, said the courses will be taught by foremost early childhood authorities, who will examine specific strategies to enhance children's linguistic, cognitive and creative development.

Hours for the exhibit will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and closed on Sundays.

The Huggins Center utilizes a curriculum influenced by the Reggio approach with the 200 children it enrolls every semester. The children at the center range in age from three months to 12 years old, with priority and financial assistance given to children of low-income student parents attending the university.

"The exhibition celebrates the potential of young children that can be realized when teachers and families work as partners to provide stimulating, intellectually challenging contexts for learning. The Reggio approach is based on the belief that early artistic and creative education are critical to intellectual development," Abramson said.

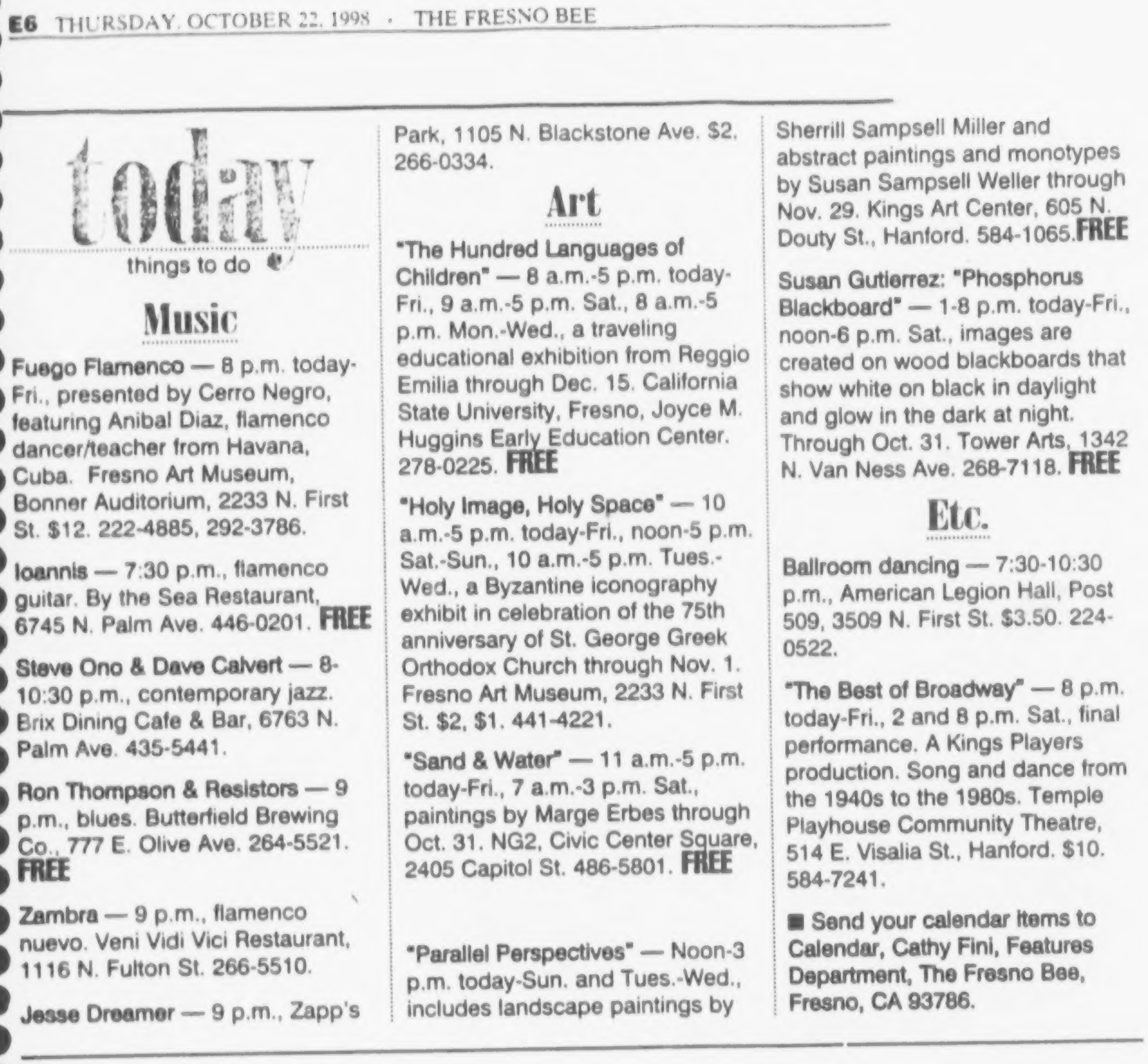
"The system allows children to speak the 'Hundred Languages,' or to express their ideas through linguistic, musical, visual, mathematical, and kinesthetic representation."

The traveling exhibition has appeared in Washington D.C., New York, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Santa Fe, and Boulder. The exhibit has received wide acclaim at its previous showings.

Funding for the exhibit and allied training has been provided by the Child Development Training Consortium (California Department of Education), the Bonner Family Foundation, and the Fresno County Office of Education.

For information about the exhibit and tours, contact the Huggins Center, Ext. 8-0225. For information about the educational institute, contact Extended Education, Ext. 8-0333. ❖

This ran almost everyday during the exhibit



**E6** THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1998 · THE FRESNO BEE

# today

things to do

## Music

**Fuego Flamenco** — 8 p.m. today-Fri., presented by Cerro Negro, featuring Anibal Diaz, flamenco dancer/teacher from Havana, Cuba. Fresno Art Museum, Bonner Auditorium, 2233 N. First St. $12. 222-4885, 292-3786.

**Ioannis** — 7:30 p.m., flamenco guitar. By the Sea Restaurant, 6745 N. Palm Ave. 446-0201. **FREE**

**Steve Ono & Dave Calvert** — 8-10:30 p.m., contemporary jazz. Brix Dining Cafe & Bar, 6763 N. Palm Ave. 435-5441.

**Ron Thompson & Resistors** — 9 p.m., blues. Butterfield Brewing Co., 777 E. Olive Ave. 264-5521. **FREE**

**Zambra** — 9 p.m., flamenco nuevo. Veni Vidi Vici Restaurant, 1116 N. Fulton St. 266-5510.

**Jesse Dreamer** — 9 p.m., Zapp's Park, 1105 N. Blackstone Ave. $2. 266-0334.

## Art

**"The Hundred Languages of Children"** — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. today-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Wed., a traveling educational exhibition from Reggio Emilia through Dec. 15. California State University, Fresno, Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center. 278-0225. **FREE**

**"Holy Image, Holy Space"** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today-Fri., noon-5 p.m. Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Wed., a Byzantine iconography exhibit in celebration of the 75th anniversary of St. George Greek Orthodox Church through Nov. 1. Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First St. $2, $1. 441-4221.

**"Sand & Water"** — 11 a.m.-5 p.m. today-Fri., 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat., paintings by Marge Erbes through Oct. 31. NG2, Civic Center Square, 2405 Capitol St. 486-5801. **FREE**

**"Parallel Perspectives"** — Noon-3 p.m. today-Sun. and Tues.-Wed., includes landscape paintings by Sherrill Sampsell Miller and abstract paintings and monotypes by Susan Sampsell Weller through Nov. 29. Kings Art Center, 605 N. Douty St., Hanford. 584-1065. **FREE**

**Susan Gutierrez: "Phosphorus Blackboard"** — 1-8 p.m. today-Fri., noon-6 p.m. Sat., images are created on wood blackboards that show white on black in daylight and glow in the dark at night. Through Oct. 31. Tower Arts, 1342 N. Van Ness Ave. 268-7118. **FREE**

## Etc.

**Ballroom dancing** — 7:30-10:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, Post 509, 3509 N. First St. $3.50. 224-0522.

**"The Best of Broadway"** — 8 p.m. today-Fri., 2 and 8 p.m. Sat., final performance. A Kings Players production. Song and dance from the 1940s to the 1980s. Temple Playhouse Community Theatre, 514 E. Visalia St., Hanford. $10. 584-7241.

- **Send your calendar items to Calendar, Cathy Fini, Features Department, The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA 93786.**

This ran every week during the exhibit

# calendarcalendar

videoscollectibles
sportsoutdoors
socialscoming up

**Exhibits**

**Young Masters Show** — Noon-3 p.m. Sun., reception. Exhibit through Jan. 10. Kings Art Center, 605 N. Douty St., Hanford. 584-4065. **FREE**

**Holiday Show** — Daily, by appointment, through Jan. 8. Richard Hanson Fine Arts. 431-1982. **FREE**

**Scott Shaver: Photography** — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat., through Jan. 4. Merced Multicultural Art Center, 645 W. Main St., Merced. 209-388-1090.

**Reggio Emilia: "The Hundred Languages of Children"** — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., through Dec. 15. California State University, Fresno, Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center. 278-0225. **FREE**

PHI DELTA KAPPA Newsletter

Leadership, Service, Research Through Professionalism, Dedication, & Knowledge

Fresno Chapter #0110 Fresno, CA October 1998

## More about October 5th meeting:

The topic, Hundred Languages of Children exhibition from Italy will be running at CSUF this fall. It is an internationally acclaimed traveling educational exhibition from Reggio Emilia, Italy. It will be at Fresno State from September 15th through December 15th.

Early childhood educators from througuout the state, students and others interested in children will be invited to the exhibition of childrens work from the preschools run by the city of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy and considered by experts to be the best early education system in the world.

The exhibit will be displayed in the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center in the Atrium area of the Educational Building. The exhibit will be free of charge and open to the general public. Guided tours for groups will also be available for $5 per person.

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The Huggins Center utilizes a curriculum influenced by the Reggio approach with the 200 children it enrolls every semester. The children at the center range in age from three months to 12 years old, with priority and financial assistance given to children of low-income students parents attending the university.

The exhibition celebrates the potential of young children that can be realized when teachers and families work as partners to provide stimulating, intellectually challenging contexts for learning. The Reggio approach is based on the belief that early artistic and creative education are critical to intellectual development, Abramson said.

The system allows children to speak the Hundred Languages, or to express their ideas through linguistic, musical, visual, mathematical, and kinesthetic representation.

The traveling exhibition has appeared in Washington D>C., New Your, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Santa Fe, and Boulder. The exhibit has received wide acclaim at its previous showings.

Funding for the exhibit and allied training has been provided by the Child Development Training Consortium, the Bonner Family Foundation, and the Fresno County Office of Education.

For information about the exhibit and tours, contact the Huggins Center, Ext. 8-0225. For information about the educational institute, contact Extended Education, Ext. 8-0333.

# Literacy and Early Education

The exhibition, **"The Hundred Languages of Children,"** will be on display in the Education Building (Atrium level) at California State University, Fresno from September 15 through December 15, 1998.

This internationally acclaimed traveling exhibit offers an inspiring look at the early childhood education system run by the city of Reggio Emilia in northern Italy and considered to be the best in the world.

In addition, **"Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond,"** an educational institute with seminars on the Reggio Approach and early childhood education, is scheduled for several weekends during the exhibit. Each seminar includes a Friday evening reception.

For more information on the exhibit and seminars, contact the Division of Extended Education at (209) 278-0333. To arrange a guided tour at a small fee, contact the Huggins Center at (209) 278-0225.

## ■ A Context for the Exhibition Experience

*Class Code 498119 (non-credit)*

This program prior to the official opening of the exhibition will introduce principles and practices from the schools of Reggio Emilia. This program is required for those wishing to be docents for the exhibition. For this course only, you may call 278-0333 to reserve a seat and register in class.

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; additional hours arranged

**Place:** University Center, Room 200

**Course:** LEE 380T

**Fee:** $20 non-credit; $38 for each optional unit of credit payable at first class meeting (up to 3 units available)

**Instructor:** Shareen Abramson, Ph.D., is a Professor of Early Childhood Education and Director of the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center at California State University, Fresno. The Center is a training, demonstration and research center in early childhood education.

*Preregistration recommended by September 4*

## ■ Children, Teachers, and Parents: Relations for Learning and Well-Being

*Schedule No. 90812 (1 unit credit)*
*Class Code 498117 (non-credit)*

An introduction to the Reggio Emilia approach, with special focus on the system of family-centered education and care including the youngest children under age three. Malaguzzi's philosophy of "education as relationship" and its implications for organization, teacher development, inclusiveness, flexible curriculum, parent partnerships and ways the Reggio experience can speak to us in our American contexts will be explored.

**Dates:** 2 days • Friday, Sept. 18, 4 – 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Place:** Education Bldg., Room 170

**Course:** LEE 380T

**Fee:** $89 non-credit; $38 for one optional unit of credit payable at first class meeting

**Instructor:** Carolyn Pope Edwards, Ed.D., Professor of Psychology and Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She has studied Italian programs of family-centered early childhood education and care since 1983, and is one of the editors of *The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education.* Her publications examine family life, child development, and early childhood education around the world.

*Preregistration recommended by September 11*

## ■ Engaging Children's Minds: The Project Approach

*Schedule No. 90801 (1 unit credit)*
*Class Code 498118 (non-credit)*

Projects are in-depth investigations of real phenomena and events worth learning about. The key feature of a project is that it is a research effort deliberately focused on finding answers to questions about a topic posed either by children or the teacher. Participants will be introduced to the project approach through presentation of principles of development and learning and by investigating their own projects.

**Dates:** 2 days • Friday, Oct. 9, 4 – 10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 10, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Place:** Education Bldg., Room 140

**Course:** LEE 380T

**Fee:** $89 non-credit; $38 for one optional unit of credit payable at first class meeting

**Instructor:** Lilian Katz, Ph.D., is a Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and Director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She is Past President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; author of more than 100 publications; and recipient of two Fulbright Awards and many honors. In addition to her other notable books, she is co-author of *Engaging Children's Minds.*

*Preregistration recommended by October 2*

## ■ The Symbolic Languages of Children

*Schedule No. 90823 (1 unit credit)*
*Class Code 498116 (non-credit)*

Encouraging children to express ideas in different media and materials is a powerful tool for learning and reflection. The "hundred languages" is the term used by educators in Reggio Emilia to convey how children can make visible their evolving understanding through drawings, clay, wire, etc. We will examine the use of multiple languages in projects, selection of materials based on affordances, how to ask questions that provoke thinking and the role of the teacher as a partner in the learning process.

**Dates:** 2 days • Friday, Nov. 6, 4 – 10 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Place:** Education Bldg., Room 140

**Course:** LEE 380T

**Fee:** $89 non-credit; $38 for one optional unit of credit payable at first class meeting

**Instructor:** George Forman, Ph.D., is a Professor of Education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is an internationally-recognized authority on constructivism and the role of creativity in promoting cognitive development and has written extensively in these areas. He promotes the use of a variety of media as fundamental educational experiences for children. Dr. Forman is co-editor of *The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education.*

*Preregistration recommended by October 30*

**Discounted Institute program fee for all 4 programs: $237 (a savings of $50).**

Fall '98 Catalog
Division of Extended Education
California State University, Fresno

# What Are You Doing This Weekend?

Courses for Teachers
September 1998
Division of Extended Education
California State University, Fresno

## September

### The Hundred Languages of Children

The exhibition "The Hundred Languages of Children" will be on display in the Education Building (Atrium level) at California State University, Fresno from September 15 through December 15, 1998.

This internationally acclaimed traveling exhibit offers an inspiring look at the early childhood education system run by the city of Reggio Emilia in northern Italy and considered to be the best in the world.

In addition, **"Making Connections to Reggio Emilia and Beyond,"** an educational institute on the Reggio Approach and early childhood education, is scheduled during the exhibit. Each seminar includes a Friday evening reception. Following are two seminars scheduled for September.

### A Context for the Exhibition Experience

This program prior to the official opening of the exhibition will introduce principles and practices from the schools of Reggio Emilia. This program is required for those wishing to be docents for the exhibition. For this course only, you may call (209) 278-0333 to reserve a seat and register in class.

**Instructor:** Shareen Abramson, Ph.D.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.;
additional hours arranged

University Center, Room 200

LEE 380T

Class Code 498119

$20 non-credit; $38 for each optional unit of
credit payable at first class meeting
(up to 3 units available)

*Preregistration recommended by September 4.*

### Children, Teachers, and Parents: Relations for Learning and Well-Being

An introduction to the Reggio Emilia Approach, with special focus on the system of family-centered education and care including the youngest children under age three. Malaguzzi's philosophy of "education as relationship" and its implications for organization, teacher development, inclusiveness, flexible curriculum, parent partnerships and ways the Reggio experience can speak to us in our American contexts will be explored.

**Instructor:** Carolyn Pope Edwards, Ed.D.

2 days • Friday, Sept. 18, 4 – 10 p.m. &
Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Education Bldg., Room 170

LEE 380T – Schedule No. 90812

Class Code 498117

$89 non-credit; $38 for one optional unit of
credit payable at first class meeting.

*Preregistration recommended by September 25.*

# Awards, Recognitions
# and Letters of Support

PENNSTATE

1855

Conferences and Institutes
The Pennsylvania State University
225 Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
University Park, PA 16802-7005

(814) 863-5100
Fax: (814) 863-5190

February 16, 1999

Dr. Lolita G. Harbit
Director of Non-Credit Programs
Division of Extended Education
California State University, Fresno
5005 N. Maple Avenue, ED76
Fresno, CA 93740-8025

Dear Dr. Harbit:

It is my pleasure to inform you that your nomination, *"The Hundred Languages of Children,"* has won a Conferences and Professional Programs Exemplary Program Award of the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). There were many excellent selections, but yours is exemplary. The members of the Awards Committee appreciate your taking the time to submit a nomination.

We hope you or a representative will be able to attend the Awards Breakfast in Washington DC, April 11, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel during the UCEA 84th Annual Conference. Your institution will receive one complimentary ticket to this event. In addition, your program and institution will be listed in the UCEA *Awards and Honors* program booklet. You will also receive a certificate of recognition at the breakfast.

Please let me know by March 12 if you or a representative will attend the breakfast. You can call me at the above number or e-mail me at meo1@cde.psu.edu.

Once again, we congratulate you on receiving this prestigious award and look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

M. E. Ostroski

Michael E. Ostroski, Chair
CaPP Awards Committee

lmw

c: J. Michael Ortiz, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
John Zelezny, Assistant Vice President for University Relations

REGGIO CHILDREN

REGGIO CHILDREN S.r.l.
Centro internazionale per la difesa e lo sviluppo dei diritti
e delle potenzialità dei bambini e delle bambine
Sede legale: Via Guido da Castello, 12
Uffici: Piazza della Vittoria 6 - 42100 Reggio Emilia - Italia
Tel 0522/455416 - Fax 0522/455621

From: REGGIO CHILDREN SRL and MUNICIPALITY OF REGGIO EMILIA ITALY

TO: **Shareen Abramson**
**Early Education Center/School of Education and Human Development - CSU Fresno**
**FAX: 001 209 278 0404**

re/ OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION
*THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN*

date 15th September 1998

Dear Friends,

on behalf of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, the Infant-Toddler Centers and Preschools and Reggio Children we would like to thank you for your strong commitment, for the big effort and the passion showed in the organization of the Exhibit *The Hundred Languages of Children* and the related initiatives.

In this occasion, we are happy to wish you a big success and all the best for all the collaborators.

We are with you even if we are so far away!!!

Carlina Rinaldi

Sergio Spaggiari

and all the Reggio Friends!

Dear Shareen -

I wanted to take a minute to touch base and tell you thank you for the wonderful job you are doing with the 100 languages exhibit! ... and the week-end presentations! I can only imagine the hours of preparation you have put in. Last weekend - the opening reception was very nice and so organized!! Carolyn Edwards was such an interesting speaker, not to mention a very nice person. I felt like I had known her for a long time. Thank you for including me for lunch!! ☺

I'm bringing students this Friday, October 2 and we are all looking forward to it. I will docent my group, if that suits you. I will also be there Saturday, October 3 to docent for the day.

I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

Fondly —

Bobbie (Kline)

California State University, Sacramento
6000 J STREET · SACRAMENTO · CALIFORNIA 95819-6079

Teacher Education
School of Education
office (916) 278-6653
fax (916) 278-6643
e-mail hachael@saclink.csus.edu

November 10, 1998

Dr. Shareen Abramson
Professor of Early Education
Director of the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center
School of Education and Human Development
California State University, Fresno
Fresno, California

Dear Shareen

Thank you for the personal tour of the Joyce Huggins Early Education Center. Cheryl Farris and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit. You and your staff are on the cutting edge, with your planned outdoor space, your present work on documentation, and your use of natural and non-commercial resources.

The Reggio exhibit, displayed along the halls of the Center near your classrooms, added to the visit as did the supportive materials.

It was a pleasure to meet you. I will talk with Pat Worley and try to arrange a visit to CSUS for you and some of your staff. Thanks again for lunch and for the opportunity to talk with your colleagues. Please convey my appreciation to Mary and Laura as well for their hospitality. They are doing a great job!

Sincerely,

Harriet C. Neal

Harriet C. Neal
Professor
Child Development/Early Childhood Education

Dear Dr. Abramson, Sept 22, 1998

Thankyou for allowing my H.E.R.O./ ECE visit
you lab school there at CSU Fresno. The students
were very impressed with the observation rooms
and the truly wondrous Reggio Emilia Children's
art display. The Hundred Languages Of Children
exhibit is an inspiration to early childhood
educators everywhere to create the kind of
environment which engenders creativity in even
the youngest of children! Sincerely,

Mrs. Deborah Hughes HERO/ ECE
Roosevelt High

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

the color of love is always the same in the eyes of a child...

12/1/98

Dear Shareen,

Thank you so much for taking me and my staff on such a personalized tour of the 100 Languages exhibit. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day at your wonderful center.

I really appreciated the time you spent with us on a very busy day. Your passion and persistence to bring this exhibit to Fresno has touched so many lives. Thank you for caring so much. Thanks again for your hospitality. You are a very gracious host.

Sincerely
Linda Butterfield

rom the desk of **Ruth Long**

12/3/98

Dear Shereen,

Thanks for the time and effort you have put into spreading the word on Reggio.

Enclosed are the evaluations — they are very positive.

Ruth

CSUF CHILDREN'S CENTER
Associated Students
California State University, Fullerton, Inc.

10-26-98

Dear Shareen,

I want to thank you for the wonderful visit to your program and the Hundred Languages Exhibit. Your program and the exhibit are most inspiring. And you went out of your way to provide so many special touches.

Appreciatively,

Betsy Gibbs

800 N. State College Blvd., T-200 • P.O. Box 6828 • Fullerton, CA 92834-6828 • (714) 278-2961

**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS**
**FAMILY STUDIES & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

(805) 259-7800, ext. 3501
(805) 255-3048 FAX

10/28/98

Shareen Abramson,Director
Joyce M Higgns Early Education Center
California State University, Fresno
5005 North Maple Avenue M/S ED501
Fresno,California 93740-25

Dear Shareen,

Thank you so much for the guided tour of "The Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit and the tour of your Center. My staff and I thoroughly enjoyed the the experience. We especially appreciated your personal perspective and insight. We not only have a clearer understanding of the Reggio Emilio learning environment but concrete ideas on adapting and implementing in our own program.

We have put together a staff in-service to share our experience and are using all the hand outs you provided. Thanks too for the opportunity to purchase books.

If you ever have an opportunity to visit Santa Clarita, please call. We would enjoy sharing our program with you (including the influence of your tour).

Sincerely,

Diane

Diane M. Stewart
Director

Region IX Quality
Improvement Center
For Disabilities Services

Dr Abramson ~

Thank you so much for your time showing me your child development center on October 19th. I enjoyed it as much as the Reggio Exhibit. You truly have a model environment for students, parents and the community. I especially want to thank you for sharing it with me. I've already made contact with several people to let them know of the exhibit and your program as well. One is a Head Start program director from Elko NV! She recently came back from a trip to Italy and hopes to make the trip to Fresno. She said she'd heard of your center. I've enclosed a brochure about the CIHS Institute at SSU where I work. Perhaps you'll have an opportunity use our services sometime.

Deborah Conn

California Institute on Human Services, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office
5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, CA 93012 – So Ca Office
Telephone: 800.625.7649 or 805.383.9300 • Fax: 805.383.9304 or 805.383.6973
E-mail: cihs.qic9@sonoma.edu • http://www.sonoma.edu/cihs/hsds/

# THANK YOU

Dr. Shareem Abramson

Thank you so much for your wonderful tour on October 5 of the Hundred Languages of Children exhibit.

PDK members and guests were delighted to have had the opportunity to view the exhibit.

Sincerely
Caroline Edwards, Program Chair
Phi Delta Kappa

CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

February 1, 1999

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dr. Shareen Abramson

**FROM:** Paul Shaker, Dean Paul
School of Education and Human Development

**SUBJECT:** **Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit**

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Education and Human Development, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit and to congratulate you and your staff on a job well done.

The Hundred Languages Exhibit attracted thousands of teachers, local dignitaries and renowned educators to our School to experience the dynamic and important world of early childhood education. This Exhibit highlighted the priority we at SOEHD place on providing high quality education for the young children of the Valley.

Your extraordinary efforts to bring this Exhibit to Fresno will have long lasting and positive effects on our School, the Huggins Early Education Center, and Fresno State. The entire faculty and staff join me in again congratulating you on the success of the Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit.

PS/ie

c: Open File - Five days from the above date
Dr. Robert Monke
Dr. Jim Marshall
Dr. Jacques Benninga

**School of Education
and Human Development**
Office of the Dean

5005 N. Maple Avenue M/S ED1
Fresno, CA 93740-8025

209 278-0210
Fax 209 278-0113

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

January 22, 1999

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Shareen Abramson
Joyce Huggins Early Education Center
From: Jacques Benninga, Chair JB
Re: Reggio Emilia Exhibit

The *Hundred Languages of Children* Exhibit has now closed and moved on to Oakland. On behalf of your colleagues in the department, I want you to know how grateful we are for the benefits to us as a result of the exhibit.

Over 3500 visitors formally viewed the exhibit and numerous of our students were trained as docents for it. Over 400 teachers from throughout California took advantage of the courses you offered as part of the exhibit and registered for those classes with internationally renowned educators who came to Fresno just to lead those workshop classes. Professional educators and local dignitaries from throughout the area (and including Chancellor Reed) participated in some of the activities related to the exhibit. In effect, the exhibit was a huge success!

Outstanding enterprises such as this can have nothing but positive effects on our stature as the leading regional institution of higher education the Valley. I know the amount of time and effort expended by you and your staff to make this project successful, but it paid off. The Early Childhood Education Program, the SOEHD and the University gained a great deal. Thank you very much for all of your efforts.

cc: Dean Paul Shaker
Dr. Robert Monke, Associate Dean
Dr. Michael Ortiz, Interim Provost
Dr. John Welty, President
Dr. Bud Richter
Faculty, Department of Literacy and Early Education

**School of Education**
**and Human Development**
Department of Literacy
and Early Education

5005 N. Maple Ave. M/S ED202
Fresno, CA 93740-8025

209 278-0250
Fax 209 278-0404

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Hundred Languages of Children

## Exhibition Opening

# HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION

## Remarks

Dr. Shareen Abramson

As many of you know, Reggio Emilia is a town in northern Italy having as a primary social endeavor providing high quality early education to its children.

According to the educators in Reggio Emilia, each of us--whether parent, teacher, child or community member--is a "protagonist."

Like heroes in great literary works, our story as protagonists must involve a journey of discovery, finding our true identity, building relationships, taking significant risks, working together, confronting and overcoming obstacles and learning more than 100 languages before our developmental and educational quest can be successfully completed.

There is a family of just such protagonists, the members of the Bonner Family Foundation who provided a major gift to the Visual Arts Program for Children at the Huggins Center that was the beginning of that which you are experiencing at this moment.

Their support made possible the beginning of a dream about having the Hundred Languages of Children exhibit in a context where students, teachers, professors, administrators, parents and others could see the exhibition from Reggio, have professional development and training on the Reggio Approach and view real US classrooms were teachers who have actually been to Reggio for training are studying and using the ideas and principles shown in the exhibit.

To return to the protagonists, Charles W. Bonner who established the Bonner Family Foundation as his legacy was a man who championed cultural enrichment, the arts and education as basics for our Fresno community. His belief that it is a moral and civic obligation to give back to the community was a guiding principle in his life and for his wife, Betty and children--Kaye, Susan, Chas and Richard who continue his vision through the work of the Foundation. A very small and partial list of programs and organizations that have received support from the foundation include the Fresno Art Museum, Fresno Philharmonic, Valley Public Television, River Parkway Trust, Rotary Amphitheater, Sierra Chamber Opera, Discovery Center and Hope Now for Youth. The foundation is also responsible for the Bonner Center for Character and Civic Education in the School of Education and Human Development in addition to the visual arts program for young children at the Huggins Center.

Although it is impossible to acknowledge everyone, we wish to thank all the protagonists who have worked with both diligence and daring many who are here this evening to bring this inspiring exhibition that encourages us both to reflect and to act in ensuring that young children and their families have comprehensive early education and care services.

The support for this exhibit is unique in having state, regional and local representation. First special recognition to the Child Development Training Consortium for underwriting the basic exhibition. This Consortium is a state-wide agency whose mission is to improve the quality of early childhood education and expand the number of qualified educators.

In the Central Valley region, Dr. Peter Mehas, Superintendent, Fresno County Office of Education and Mr. Jim Vidak, Superintendent, Tulare Office of Education successfully spearheaded an effort that resulted in sponsorship of the exhibition's educational programs by all the other county superintendents in the region including Mr. Gene Billingsley, Superintendent, Kings County Office of Education, Dr. Sally Frazier, Superintendent, Madera County Office of Education, Dr. William Pettus, Superintendent, Mariposa County Unified School District, and Mr. Ronald Tiffee, Superintendent, Merced County Office of Education. The State Center Consortium a collaborative of community colleges and schools has also sponsored the educational programs for the exhibit which includes educational tours and career guidance activities for students and teachers from throughout the state.

Other contributors include: Central California Association for the Education of Young Children, Children's Services Network, Fresno Area Child Development Consortium; Fresno County Association for the Education of Young Children; Inland Star Distribution Centers, Inc., Saint Agnes Hospital and Child Care Center and Supportive Services of Fresno County.

I also wish to recognize Dr. Joseph Martinez, Consultant, State Department of Education, for his consultation in developing a center that not only meets all state requirements but can be a model for other subsidized care programs. Also at the State Department of Education, Cynthia Hearden, whose review and recommendation of the exhibit proposal was critical to obtaining funding.

Susan Lyon, the Director of the Reggio Roundtable and Innovative Teacher Project and the former and future host of the "Hundred Languages of Children" Exhibition has provided an ongoing and invaluable program of professional development on the Reggio Emilia Approach for all of us in California and has consulted with the center since its opening.

The support given by Amelia Gambetti, the Consultant to US Schools - Reggio Children, as well as the numerous professional programs conferences, and training that have been provided by Reggio Children and the teachers of Reggio Emilia both here in the United States and in Italy has been so beneficial to the development of our program at the Huggins Center.

Great appreciation for the continual support for the Huggins Center and all of its programs is given to Dr. Paul Shaker, Dean of SOEHD who believed when others questioned, Dr. Robert Monke, Associate Dean who has been a constant source of guidance and encouragement, Dr. Jack Benninga, Chair LEE whose mentorship and friendship mean so much, Dr. Pam Lane-Garon, Coordinator of ECE, Adrienne Herrell past Coordinator of ECE, the faculty of SOEHD, the Faculty Development Committee for SOEHD, Dr. Gary Sells of CERS and Lynne Eilefson our Development Officer who have worked so hard to assist in grant writing and development for the center and the exhibit.

Most of all we must thank, the teachers, staff, parents and children of the Huggins Center who have shown such dedication and hard work to bring this moment to fruition. So many times other opportunities have knocked yet they have chosen to be part of a possibility, for reaching a goal of what early education could be.

Special mention must be made of of the center's Parent Advisory Board whose advocacy for children and the center proved that Malaguzzi's philosophy based on relationships and parent participation is adaptable.

We are honored to have with us Dr. Carolyn Edwards, from the University of Nebraska and co-author of The Hundred Languages of Children and Dr. Brad Mitchell from the Ohio State University to celebrate the exhibit opening and to teach us more.

In Reggio such a strong, collaboration might be described as the "I that is we." A recognition that the future and well-being of children as well as the community depends on a shared commitment that combines the efforts of each of us--protagonists all! Let us applaud our great success!

# EXHIBITION EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

## A SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSES

"This exhibit was absolutely powerful, it brought a big smile to my face! I'm encouraged to apply these special techniques to my own children. I have been inspired! I would like to know more about how to get involved. It makes me want to become a teacher! The involvement of the children is outstanding. I'm very pleased! Very good exhibit and ideal models!"
-Catalina Rodriguez, Children Services Network

"I saw the exhibit in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 1990 and was once again thrilled to experience the Reggio thought process. I am so glad it has stimulated our entire profession."
-Sandy Buckall, Child Development Instructor, Modesto
Junior College

"This exhibit demonstrated children's experience, their ideas, and their own work. Teachers would have to be re-trained. I hope to return on my own to see the exhibit. To be able to take the time to read and look at the children's documented work. Fresno State is very lucky to have such a dedicated staff to want to implement a program such as this."
-Irene Enriquez, Bakersfield College

"Incredible! And delightful--a learning experience for me. What a way to learn--adulthood will be different for those children. Thanks."
-Harrison Madden, Professor, Psychology Dept., Fresno State

"The idea of teachable moments, and using this with the toddlers, I love this concept, but I think the key was interest-based learning and observations. This program was wonderful!"
-April Fredeiksen, Lincoln Unified School District

"Through the Exhibition I saw a lot of creativity. I enjoyed going into the classroom it looks inviting and cozy. I liked seeing all the variety of things being used by your children especially all the nature items."
-Gloria Cabrera, Dinuba Head Start Program

"I really enjoyed the exhibition, it lets you know what goes in the minds of children. More than I ever thought!"
-Ludy Rivera, Preschool Teacher, Madera Center

"Good overview of the feeling as well as reality of the Reggio philosophy and its implementation. Excellent tour experience--very valuable information from tour guide--definitely can be a reality for us."
-Barbara Beck, Administrator, Carmel Unified School District

"The exhibit is breath-taking! Nice pamphlet to accompany it. Well done!"
-Deborah Enelow, Principal, Temple Isaiah Religious School

"I really enjoyed the exhibition. I never knew this Reggio Emilia existed. It interested me so much I would like to further my education in Early Childhood Education. I only have an AA from College of the Sequoias. I would like to further study. I also would like to travel to Italy to see this. I never really wanted to see Europe before. I think this program is the greatest achievement for the Early Childhood Education field. It's just wonderful that there is not enough words I could express of this program. The art, shadows, creativity is just unbelievable. Also your center's yard is so wonderful and the garden is great!"
-Sandra Alcaraz, Tulare Head Start

"They are amazing projects. I think that the United States should support our early childhood education program and promote projects like that, too. I hope that in the future we shall include projects like this in our early childhood educational programs."
-Mee Vang, Student, Fresno City College

"The exhibit is very successful at expressing the core of true philosophy, relationships, and content. The tour was especially helpful. Wonderful!"
-Leddi Fanucchi, Teacher, Bakersfield Community College

"Very interesting and motivating. It is something great for our community to do for the children. The display proves the connections that children make and how their brain develops. This was a great exhibit. I enjoyed the discussion time, and learned a lot from everyone."
-Maria Salinas, Teacher, PACE, Fresno Unified School District

"It was a wonderful experience. More of our public schools need to incorporate Reggio Emilia teachings."
-Marlene Alvarez

"The exhibition was wonderful. It's amazing to see how young children can express themselves if given the opportunity and materials. I can't wait to go back to the centers and share my experience."
-Candace Lee, Administrator, San Francisco Unified School District

"Thank you for the most wonderful experience. The students really enjoyed the program and your sharing--Terrific!"
-Judi Scheidt, Instructor, Madera Community College

"Inspiring. This is my second time seeing the exhibit--Well mounted and an encouraging depth of study."
-Leah Marks, Teacher, Gallinas Elementary School

"The Hundred Languages Exhibit was simply grand! I love how involved the children are in the activities, especially with the grapes. I was also very impressed on how much these children know."

-Krystle Saldana, Student, Fresno City College

"I'm glad I'm taking all three workshops and will have the opportunity to revisit the exhibit and find deeper meaning with each visit as well as some wonderful ideas to implement in my classroom."

-Victoria Chaides, Teacher, Pacific Oaks College

"I was amazed at the quality of the children's work and the activities that prompted the learning which in turn is made into an artifact of that learning. Thank you for the tour and the introduction to Reggio Emilia. This was the first time I've heard about it and I'm very intrigued!"

-Linda Lake, Reading Recovery, Rio Linda

"I was moved to tears to learn of a way of being with children that so perfectly practices the belief that all learning is generated inside the child and we can trust the child to grow by just being there with attention and love."

-Beverly Scaff, Concord, CA

"Wonderful! Thanks! Can't wait until the exhibit is at Mills for my students to get to see."

-Barbara Henderson, Instructor, San Francisco State

"It is great that you made the exhibit open to the public. A true opportunity."

-Deborah Conn, Project Specialist, Sonoma State

"Wonderful, exciting. This exists because of the children."

-Debbie Damsen, Teacher, Reading Recovery, Modesto

"Thank you so much for sharing this fabulous exhibit! A great way to learn."

-Marge Poe, Administrator, Madison School District

"This exhibit is incredible. It's amazing to see what children so young are seeing, thinking, and doing."

-Connie Jesser, Reading Recovery, Vancouver

"I found myself continually to be amazed and in disbelief that a child so young could accomplish so much, so well and learn in this manner."

-Kath Scarminach, Student

"Very enlightening and inspiring. Shows the real beauty of a child's thinking when they are given open-ended opportunities and time and a great deal of depth in experiences."

-Mary Shults, Teacher

"Very impressive. Must have great community support. How do these children do in school and life as they get older?"

-Kathy Boudinot-Johnson, Teacher, Fresno Unified School District

"Wonderful experience. Very thought provoking and inspiring."

-Jan Foster, Licensed Day Care Provider

"We really enjoyed the exhibit. Actually seeing the children's work added a lot to reading the book."

-Malyon and Robert Booth, Teachers, Alameda Unified Schools

"What a marvelous insight into the potential by learning/teaching of young children. Beautifully displayed."

-Marian Niles, Hill and Dale Family Learning Center

"I really enjoyed it. This is the first time for being introduced to the approach. I'm interested in seeing it again."

-Jaime Funke, Lincoln Unified School District

"Wonderful exhibit, where so much learning takes place with the children in natural settings, very realistic settings."

-Delia Rosas, Teacher, CDC Placentia

"I thought it was very interesting. I noticed that there are a lot of group activities. I'm very glad I came, it gave me new ideas to use in my own classes."

-Johnette Caretto, Teacher, Kid's World Preschool

" I really enjoyed walking through the exhibition. I believe it is a wonderful approach and I would love to someday in the near future visit Reggio Emilia. I was fascinated by the many activities that took place. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity for this experience. It is something that really captured my attention and interest as well. I will enjoy reading the book, The Hundred Languages. I look forward to know/learn more about your program!! Very inspiring!"

-Luz Anaya, Student, Fresno State

An eye-opener. Can see how the children, parents, and staff would enjoy the atmosphere and how much the children were considered in the environment that they would be part of. Have much to share with fellow students and co-workers about the Reggio approach and what can be accomplished. The photos show a multitude of emotions and hands-on experiences. Using all that is part of their surroundings to develop their interests and emotions. Appreciate being able to see first hand the many worlds children can experience. I'm thankful for the opportunity to share my thoughts and enthusiasm with everyone."

-Anna Hernandez, Teacher, Headstart, Hanford

"The exhibit experience I received today can't compare to any other. It makes me want to go to Italy to come back to share with colleagues."

-Lety Lemus, Stanislaus Co. Office of Education, Modesto

"Thank you. The display opened my eyes to some new ideas and ways to work with families and children. I am looking forward to sharing what I've seen with my family."

-Karen Deckenbeck-Estes, Teacher, Salinas Adult School

"It was amazing to see the great potential come out in the children throughout the different exhibits. As a future teacher I was engulfed with ideas that I could use in my classroom."

-Christine Preas, Student, Fresno State

"Wonderful. Very mind expanding. I hope to be able to bring some of the ideas and energy into my primary class."

-Ann Mayse, Student, Fresno State

"I truly enjoyed the exhibit! The children are so talented and amazing and I can see how much work the teachers had put into the project as well. The exhibit provided me with many new ideas of projects to do with the children. I really liked how the children used colors and other media for expressing themselves."

-Stephanie Ng, Student, Fresno State

"This was fascinating! It was so inspiring to see the beautiful photographs and artwork. I really saw the wonder of childhood represented and I especially appreciated the "timeless" nature of the experiences represented."

-Cathy Venema, Teacher, Westminister Christian Preschool

"I thought the exhibition was great. I was very surprised to see how much creativity was put into each project. I feel the Reggio Emilia approach is positive and healthy for development in Early Childhood Education."

-Joanna Mesa, Student, Fresno City/Reedley College

"The exhibition was very interesting and had a lot to show. The children were very creative and everything was great. Reggio Emilia has done a lot for the children and I feel we should do the same if not more for the children, they are our future."

-Veronica Armiento, Fresno City/Reedley College

"It is an honor and a pleasure and a delight to see this show again after many years; its phenomenal job is to create its presence, and it is beautifully hung."

-Lia Thompson-Clark, Administrator, Children's School,
Sonoma State

"Very, very, surprising. I never thought of children using sharp objects. Well I thought about it, and I have a fear of them getting hurt. But this exhibition opened my eyes to new ideas and a new way of thinking about a child as a more intelligent person (than I used to think). Bravo!"

-Ivonne Castillo, Teacher, OTCW CDC

"Stellar, eye-opening effort that jars and invites thoughts that are hard to frame in words."

-John Taylor, Newspaper Reporter, The Fresno Bee

"I was very impressed. It filled me with new thoughts and ideas. It made me want to be reborn as a child in Reggio Emilia. What a blessing that would be!"

-Linda D. Johnson, Senior Aide, Webster CDC

"A joyous experience! I wish we could have this program all over the U.S. Thank you."

-Babs Eskin, Member of Unitarian Universalist Church

"I have been very interested in this approach. I really enjoyed seeing the exhibition and plan to further incorporate some of the experiences. It reinforces my belief of building on the children's experiences and documenting their learning experiences."

-Linda Canini, Instructor, College of the Canyons

"I feel a need to come back when I can spend an entire day just for the exhibition. Too much to absorb at one time. Exhilarating and inspiring."

-Barbara Metz, Teacher-Owner, Nipomo Child Care

"It shows how important it is to spend more time with children. They can be enjoyed."

-Maralyn Ewald, Heaton CDC

"Beautiful! Neat to see a program following children's thoughts, discoveries, and searchings."

-Della Campbell, Supervisor, Webster CDC

"I was truly surprised to see such creativity! I think if we got a chance to work with these kids at a younger age and we didn't have to rush them through our rigid pre-school programs, we would see a lot more creativity in our kids."

-Christina Haynes, Scandinavian CDC

"The exhibit was excellent, a lot of good ideas. I am glad I got to have a tour. The playground was just amazing--the fruit and vegetable garden."

-Shameem Rayani, Teacher, Headstart Program

"Incredible! I love all the documentation of the children's work and their learning process including pictures, student and teacher's quotes, and actual work. I want to view the exhibit again."

-Laura Jelmini, Student, Fresno State

"Beautiful display of children's learning. Lovely to have it connected to Fresno's early childhood program. I noted children commenting on the exhibit to their parents."

-Susan Hopkins, Consultant

"The exhibit was extraordinary! What is being done in Reggio Emilia is wonderful. I have always dreamed of being part of a child centered program and this exhibit gave me an opportunity to at least view such a program."

-Jenny Krog, Student, Fresno State

"I have taken the time to read a little bit from the bibliography I was given about the Reggio Emilia Approach and that gave me more understanding about the process of the project. I have been in the exhibit several times. Every time I see something new."

-Adriana Lourido, Teacher, Exceptional Parents Unlimited

"It was a fantastic tour, and very different. I would like to follow the projects that go on for days, weeks, even months. I would like to see what the kids in our center can accomplish, if they take time and put a lot of effort into a project."

-Lisberth Chavez, Student, Fresno City College

"Great experience in seeing how such young children use their intelligence in such a productive manner."

-Norma Ruiz, Teacher, Roosevelt PACE, Fresno Unified

"Wonderfully exhibited--the depth of study of the panels of this exhibit is refreshing. The image of the child is clear, consistent, respectful."

-Rane Sessions, Student, UC Berkeley

"I am amazed at the diversity and intensity of the "lessons." It's exciting to see such creativity from the children! I was amazed at . . . well, let's just say I was saddened that more children don't get the chance to explore in this way--especially in drawing/painting/coloring. The children I have observed don't seem to have nearly the level of expressiveness or exposure. The exhibit was inspiring!"

-Karie Phillips, Student, Fresno City College

"Extremely inspiring--so important to see, not just read about the projects."

-Donna Doherty, Teacher, Eureka High School

"I've been waiting to see this exhibit for a long time and I was not disappointed. Very interesting!"

-Bev Clark, Administrator, Lincoln Unified School District

"I am so glad you were able to bring the exhibition here!! It is wonderful! The colors, documentation, children's reaction, interaction, work is so inspiring." Congratulations!"

-Bobbie Kline, Instructor, Modesto Community College

"Wonderful exhibit--demonstrating the creativity and intelligence of children when they are supported and encouraged to explore and come to understand their environment--to follow their curiosity."

-Susan Hunter Hancock, Administrator, Pacific Oaks

"Excellent! Especially enjoyed the project on colors and on computers. The explanation of algorithms was clear and the concept of children learning the steps to program a turtle moving back and forth from the symbolic turtle to the turtle on the floors shows the depth of cognitive ability that preschoolers are capable of."

-Alyce Takahashi, Student, Fresno State

"It is a fascinating exhibit. I am particularly interested in the role of the teacher to spark such creativity and 'language' expression."

-Mary Burkholder, Student, Fresno State

"Very exciting to have a pre-school of this caliber in Fresno--A school that knows about Reggio Emilia and has brought us this incredible exhibit that reveals the richness and depth of children's minds and creative talents."

-Patricia Moore, Teacher, Clovis Adult School

"Wonderful! It put me back in touch with what all our educational programs should be about . . . Children and their discovery and experience of the world. I feel that the public school system is sinking in a sea of wrong priorities--standardized tests and scores."

-Audra Christenson, Teacher, Turner Elementary School

"The exhibition was incredible. I was deeply impressed with the quality and inner meaning of the young children's projects. It's wonderful that some of the ideology and lessons are being used here."

-Virginia Hare, Student, Fresno State

"The exhibit was extremely inspiring. I appreciated the time we had--3 hours--but could have spent many more. The videotape was a good introduction for us. Shareen, you were a wonderful resource and guide. Thanks!"

-Sharon Brenneise, Administrator, Lincoln Unified School District

"I was very impressed with the respectful representation of children's work and the creativity of the presentation. It was informative and inspiring. The panels showed what can be accomplished by any teacher with some time and thoughtful planning. The video was a nice introduction. I appreciated being able to see your classrooms."

-Liz Popovich, Teacher, Solano Community College

"The exhibit effectively communicates the nature, intent and outcomes of the Reggio Approach. Mounting it in even more public places (e.g., shopping mall) would raise public consciousness of what is possible with young children coupled with a parent education program, it could be a powerful tool for building an advocacy base for better early school programs."

-Jim Marsh, Teacher, Lincoln Unified School District

"Very enlightening. I especially enjoyed seeing how the Fresno State program is adapting this philosophy on a local level."

-Valerie Vuicich, Administrator, Fresno County Office of Education & State Center Consortium

"I think this exhibit really shows how a person is, especially how a child is, with their own feelings and expressions, and it also shows their own characteristic and their different interests. This display also shows a lot of creativity from children."

-Lanny Vang, Student, Roosevelt High School

"Wow! I didn't expect anything like this. Brought back such wonderful memories. It gave me many, many ideas on how I might teach. Thank you!

-Laura Star, Student, Fresno State

"It was delightful to see a whole town adopt and support a philosophy that follows child development principles."

-Joanne Ornellas, Teacher, Early Start-Madera County Office of Education

"This was a nice extension to the Summer Institute I attended at Mills College. It brought to life for me the concepts I am learning so much about. I don't think I could see enough! The work shows such enthusiasm and value of children and their ideas and learning. I hope this will encourage the teachers of California to think in new ways and pay more attention to the interests of the children!"

-Lisa Schut, Modesto Community College

I was amazed at the extent of each project. Material was used that I would not even think of using with children. It seems children were given the opportunity to really express themselves.

-Elsie Gaitan, Teacher, Parkwest Preschool

One thing I noticed with this exhibit is the complexity and involvement of children. Here in our schools children are told what to make and how to do it and they are rushed. I think every teacher in the Valley should visit this exhibit and try if possible to visit Italy. I know I'm going to try. Great presentation!

-Christina Green, Student, Fresno City College

"The respect given to the children of Reggio Emilia, their work, their thinking, their 100 Languages is so apparent in the exhibit. The joy of collaborative learning, children, teachers, adults is also evident and a very real part of the exhibit. The image of the child as competent, rich and powerful evokes such feelings of wonder, delight, renewal, hope and excitement in me. I can never "get enough" of the Reggio philosophy and the value it places on the children's as very capable, productive people and citizens of the world. I could also sense the value and respect for time, children's time for thorough exploration of the children's questions and theories. The depth of thinking and perception of the children's development and cognition by the adults that work with them is evident in the explanations or preambles to the panels. I can see now why it can take many visits to the exhibit to see it all and to understand and relate to one's own experiences to discuss how it applies, relates to the work I do with the children and families at my job. The incredible intelligences of children!!"

-Corinne Cleaveland, Teacher, Foothill College Children's Center

"I feel rejuvenated about teaching when I feel the creativity and depth of thoughts brought into being. I am happy to see the length of time used to explore. I am ready to bring my camera back out.

-Sharon Camp, Teacher, Tulare County Office of Education

"The pictures and projects are so incredible. The children put a lot of effort and time into these projects. I believe that the States could also integrate these ideas into the classroom if 1) every teacher-to-be understands the concepts of these ideas 2) the end product wasn't as important as putting everything together and 3) creativeness in art and music can be integrated as in Reggio Emilia into science, math and history."

-Joey Ayn Martinez, Student, Fresno City College

"I am inspired by the exhibit. I feel encouraged to take the time to understand what my child is telling me. She is only 15 months and we have so much to learn. I'm so encouraged to point my future in the direction of child development and extend my education."

-Dulce Wright, Children's Services Network